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WHY HAN SOLO DOES NOT (YOU SHOULD PARDON THE EXPRESSION) MEASURE UP

by Ellen Randolph

It has been bruited about in various quarters that somewhere in the Saga there lurks a Cosmic Chessmaster, a Ruler of the Game, someone exerting puppet-mastery over characters and events. But who might qualify for the role--and what are the qualifications?

Ruthlessness is an absolute necessity. Monsieur Roget presents some intriguing synonyms for "ruthless": merciless, pitiless, relentless, remorseless. I'd add arrogant as well, a total belief in The Cause and in anything done for its advancement. This string-jerker must also be a master manipulator, arranging lives and deaths to suit a game plan. This brings up the question of sacrifice: everybody else's. Other people must suffer as needed for the greater good of the galaxy as a whole. No affection, sentiment, honor, or anything else can be allowed to interfere. The Cosmic Chessmaster must watch sacrifices caused by his/her/its action or inaction; even if moved, this being must not give up the grand scheme for the sake of private emotion. And if unmoved, this entity is something of a monster. He/she/it plots to some uniquely perceived goal--though what that goal might be, we are not told. We have seen the action, but we don't yet know the ultimate outcome. In the immortal words of Lord Peter Wimsey, "When you know how, you know who"; presumably when the Saga is complete and we find out how all this was done the identity of the prime mover will become obvious. But until that time, we can only speculate.

It has been said with a good deal of conviction that Han Solo is the Cosmic Chessmaster. Interesting notion.

Ruthless, merciless, pitiless, remorseless. Arrogant. Manipulative. Willing to sacrifice others. Faithful to the dictates of a master plan. Killing when and where necessary. Let's take these in reverse order.

1. Han's kills are fascinating when one considers his motivations. He blasts Greedo in the cantina for very direct and personal reasons. The same is true of all his kills. The threat must be immediate: stormtroopers on the first Death Star;

TIE fighters pursuing the Falcon both during the escape from the Death Star and in the asteroid field, and the one tailing Luke in the trench sequence; Imp agents entering the Hoth hangar; soldiers on Endor. Han's kills are purely personal ones. He sees a direct threat, analyzes it, decides such persons shouldn't be inhabiting a nice galaxy like this one, and does himself and everyone else a favor. It's all summarized in his reaction to Vader on Bespin: he identifies, decides, and goes for his blaster. For Han, killing is an immediate gut reaction. There is nothing planned about it; he simply kills when it's necessary to do so.

It can be argued that he feels no mercy, pity, or remorse; but why should he? When he finds himself on the wrong end of a blaster, it's him or the other guy. Han isn't one to feel sorry he's alive.

2. Adherence to the Master Plan. Han himself quashes this notion very early on in that one-end-of-the-galaxy-to-the-other speech. He states categorically that nothing controls his destiny. Again, the point is arguable, for in the same film he tells Luke, "May the Force be with you." But is it too far out of line to suggest that this is his peace offering to Luke? It can also be said that if he indeed is the Chessmaster, the last thing he's going to do is admit it. But is Han capable of that much dissembling? Everything we know of him is direct, up front, cut-the-crap; complex a personality though he is, he says what he thinks and acts on his feelings. Is he really that good a liar?

3. Sacrificing others. Han is so far from being this kind of person it's laughable. He never sacrifices lives or feelings to serve himself or anything else. Quite the opposite, in fact: he demonstrates a rather wide streak of self-sacrifice. In his saner moments he terms the Death Star mission "suicide"--yet he goes to do what he can, even though he's morally certain his ass will end up as space dust. His words and actions in the carbon freeze sequence don't indicate a man willing to let others suffer in his place; he calms Chewie down before the Wookiee can get himself killed on his rampage. And while Han's words include "This can't

help me!", it's ultimately the fate of the princess that he uses to convince his old friend. This man knows he's going to suffer--and those two small words he gives Leia ("I know") reveal that it's her suffering that hurts him most. Not only is Han unwilling to see others suffer because of or instead of him, he actively loathes being used as the instrument of another's suffering. He only lights into Lando when he finds out Luke has been lured to Bespin by Vader with himself and Leia as bait. His speech to Jabba about paying triple makes a lot of people cringe--but listen to the reason for his desperation. This man is blind, sick, shaking, barely conscious, yet he's doing everything he can to fast-talk Leia out of this. These are not the acts of a man who gets his jollies out of sacrificing someone else on behalf of a master game plan.

4. Manipulative and arrogant. Han doesn't appreciate being used by Vader to trap Luke. Nowhere in the Saga does he jerk anybody's strings. In fact, quite often Han is the one who gets manipulated. Luke does very nicely with the "She's rich" line; Han shows himself vulnerable to Leia's maneuvering in Luke's sickroom on Hoth, when she plays him like a prize trout. The most Han ever does is tease--but not to get people to do as he wants. His "You think a princess and a guy like me...?" is to tweak Luke a bit, not to hurt or manipulate. Vader uses Han as part of the plot to get Luke to Bespin; Yoda can be said to be guilty of the same kind of manipulation in abstract. Leia tries to sell Han on staying with "You're a natural leader"; he's not buying. Direct himself, Han recognizes indirection instantly. What this man wants, he goes after; he never jockeys other people into position to get it for him. In fact, he's probably the only character in the Saga who never manipulates

anyone, especially not for personal or galactic gain.

As for arrogance...well, insufferable, smug, and conceited, yes. But nowhere in Han is the sheer arrogance that believes its way is the only way. One simply cannot see him as a dictator.

5. So we return to ruthlessness. After reviewing the evidence, it's hard to imagine Han as the merciless manipulator of lives, deaths, and destinies who fits the bill for this Cosmic Chess-master. What Han tells Leia about himself is the literal truth. He is a nice man. Beneath that imperfect disguise is a man of caring, gentleness, loyalty, self-sacrifice, humor, honesty, and even nobility.

These are words that describe Luke, too. But with a difference. Luke is ruthless. Rather than make this doomed attempt to find the puppet master in Han Solo, consider Luke Skywalker.

Sacrifice others for the sake of the greater good, the master plan? You betcha. Just how long does he hesitate before going to Han and Leia on Bespin, after Yoda has warned him about the larger game being played?

Manipulate others into doing what he wants them to? Just watch him maneuvering Han into rescuing the princess, or telling Leia she's the only hope for the Alliance if he doesn't make it back. And arrogance--he draws his lightsaber on Vader, of all people: "You'll find I'm full of surprises." Insolent little twit.

Ruthless? Here's this kid straight off the farm who climbs into a ship he's never flown before in his life (arrogance again) and proceeds to destroy a battle station the size of a small moon--with an appropriate casualty list. This isn't looking down the snout of a blaster aimed at him. This is blow-



As of December 31, 1987, no more orders for circulating copies of SW fanzines will be taken by the SWzine Lending Library. Thank you for your interest and support throughout the past year!

The First Terran Enclave

(A final report on the operation and donation of the SWzine Lending Library will be available in a future issue of SOUTHERN ENCLAVE. Or, send a SASE to The First Terran Enclave / 2330 Federal Ave. East / Seattle, WA 98102 for a copy of the report in the spring of 1988.)

ing up countless people. We never see a shred of remorse for what he's done; he believes in his own destiny, in the Force, in the larger plan. For these, all is permitted. And let's face it, folks: Han's body count isn't even in the same league with Luke's.

Merciless? Neither Yoda nor Ben says anything about killing Vader. It's Luke who comes up with the idea of his own father's death.

While I do not subscribe to the more outrageous interpretations of Luke's behavior in JEDI (we could all make an opposing case for everything brought up against him), I readily admit that this guy is ruthless, relentless, manipulative, and driven. I also think that while Han Solo is much nicer than he seems, Luke Skywalker is not as nice as he appears.

But neither do I propose Luke as Cosmic Chess-master. He is himself manipulated far too often (though it could be said that this is great training for future string-pulling of his own). But even a superficial examination of the qualities and characteristics necessary for the position reveal Luke as a much more likely candidate than Han.

But Leia is the most likely of all.

Reaction to Leia has always been most curious. Plenty of fans loathe her. Some writers won't touch her character in their stories; others permit her a grudging walk-on. Some are furious that, due to JEDI's ending, it's necessary to pair her with Han --and a few have dismembered either their union or Leia herself to correct what is to them an untenable situation.

Why isn't the princess liked? She's pretty but not threateningly beautiful, even though she manages to look good in a gown and jewels, a buckskin dress, or practically nothing but purple scarves. She's capable, competent, a strong presence, and Force-gifted. Admired and sought after by two powerful and desirable men (three if you count Lando), she has a position of influence and is treated as an equal by the most important leaders of the Rebellion. She's a Senator, royalty (of a sort, depending which interpretation you favor), and in the immortal words of Luke Skywalker, "She's rich." She understands and practices the art of war very well, can handle a gun and presumably a starship (she's in Han's chair during the Beshpin escape). She's entrusted with essential missions for the Rebels and is deeply dedicated to a noble cause. She survives Vader's torture quite well from the evidence. She's not afraid of much--indeed, there are few things she even considers threatening, so secure is she in her abilities and strengths. Even little animals like her, for god's sake! And she gets Han Solo.

What's not to like?

In the abstract, Leia is everything women want to be: powerful, gifted, good-looking, influential, rich, capable, courageous, strong; not only does the cute blond kid fall for her at first sight, but she gets the hunk Corellian. She's the only woman (other than Mon Mothma, whose character is undeveloped) in the whole damned 6+ hours of film! Why do so many fans dislike her? Leia has no flaws. None of the usual ones, anyway, none that appeal to us as 20th-century women. Though on the face of it, she really is almost everything we're supposed to want to be, it's sometimes simply impossible to identify with her.

Leia doesn't have to clean the house, feed the dog, change diapers (yet!), wash dishes, pay the phone bill. She doesn't worry about her weight (after the first movie, she doesn't need to). She

doesn't have to redo her lipstick or recomb her hair. She even looks nice when she cries. She is thoroughly loathsome for all the reasons we ought to find her wonderful. She has, in fact, only one real foible: she's a clothes horse.

(Honest. There's only the one teeny clue, but it's a goodie. One of Threepio's first lines in EMPIRE is something like, "I don't know how we're going to dry out all her clothes" (emphasis his). This is done so throwaway that nearly everyone misses it. But it opens up an entire aspect of Leia Organa that suddenly makes her very human: Shop Till You Drop!)

Digressions aside, there's something very endearing about Leia as far as I'm concerned. (Yes, I know what I did to her in A NEW CHALLENGE; so sue me. I did it for reasons I'll explain below.) What can be seen is her potential. She has and is many admirable, desirable things. But much of her is unrealized. Not hidden, but unused and unfulfilled. We know, for example, that she's passionate (any woman who gets within ten feet of Han and doesn't feel passionate has been dead for a week), but we never really get a hot-and-heavy love scene. Even the kisses she and Han exchange at the end of JEDI are strangely chaste. Her potential as a woman in love is as yet unrealized.

So, too, is her power as a Jedi. In fact, the two things she has that most of us really want--her Force-gifts and Han Solo--are the two areas in which we never see her at work, so to speak. Until she fulfills those aspects, and certain others, she is not yet everything she can be.

Which is why I did to her what I did to her. It was Leia's unrealized potential that frankly fascinated me after seeing JEDI. There's a whole number about how she had to lose everything--Han, her position as Senator, the respect and regard of the Alliance, the entire underpinnings of her life--before she could become what she was meant to be. But I won't bore you with that here. What we're investigating is the possibility of Leia as Cosmic Gamester.

1. Killing. Though Leia's approach is similar to Han's, there is a subtle difference. She kills in response to a direct threat, but in large part she relies on others to do her killing for her. Han and Luke perform this function during the escape from the Death Star. Luke takes care of the battle station itself--and one can easily extrapolate that this callow farmboy is in part going out there not just for the adventure and to defend Yavin, but because he wants to impress the princess, a fact she knows and uses. Leia kills quite efficiently on Beshpin, Tatooine, and Endor; her kills are in direct response to threat (capture, thwarted escape, possible ruin of plans). But there's a certain coldness to the way she kills. It's very difficult to pin down. Look at the way Han charges off in the first Death Star, and compare it to Leia's calculated shots taken on Beshpin. This may be a matter of interpretation--but in that scene she's lost her lover, her dear friend is about to get whalloped by Vader, and if she doesn't get the hell out of there she's going to have an inevitably awkward confrontation with the emperor. But the emotion is missing. The "Ahh, the hell with it!" bravado of Han or the "It's my destiny" dedication of Luke just aren't there. Something very chilly is going on inside her. Take a look at her eyes. The only time she almost loses it is when she watches Boba Fett's ship take off with Han inside. Instantly she's back in control, blasting away. But there's an odd

feeling that it's not done in anger or for revenge; it's simply necessary, so she does it.

2. The Master Plan. Leia, of all of them, believes in it from the first. It's her entire life. It's the focus of her dreams, her work, her devotion. The Rebellion is everything. And she brings all of her formidable talents to its service. But is it the Game? Who can say?

3. Sacrifice of others. Oh, boy. Just watch her. She has absolutely no doubt that she's worth the danger of that screwball escape plan. She alone knows what Artoo's carrying and where that information must go; she's a valuable commodity. She doesn't understand at all why Han won't sacrifice his time, talents, and life to the Rebellion. She understands perfectly why Luke sacrifices everything he is to that same Rebellion. She expects and demands dedication. True, she goes back for Luke on Bespin--but only after she's sure where he is. She knows he's in Cloud City, and she knows Vader's waiting for him--but she leaves him to his fate until she hears him cry out for her and can't ignore it. Most interesting.

It's also interesting to note that she's part of the rescue operation on Tatooine. But then, she's also capable of letting Luke go to face Vader, when he's told her flat out that there's a large chance he won't survive. She understands self-sacrifice. But she doesn't practice it.

4. Manipulative. Need I elaborate? Leia uses every weapon at her disposal to keep Han with her and the Rebellion. Among these are scorn ("Your friend is quite a mercenary!") shame ("I thought you had decided to stay! Han, we need you!"), and sex ("Well, I guess you don't know everything about women yet!"). She lures in poor Luke (who admittedly is perfectly willing to be lured) with a few judiciously distributed kisses. On Tatooine, she wants Han back and is willing to use anything and anybody to get him. She uses the innocent, primitive Ewoks in battle against the full technological might of the Empire. Leia knows very well how to manipulate.

Arrogance is evident in much of what Leia does. It's not just the regal hauteur that's part of every princess born to the role (look at Stephanie of

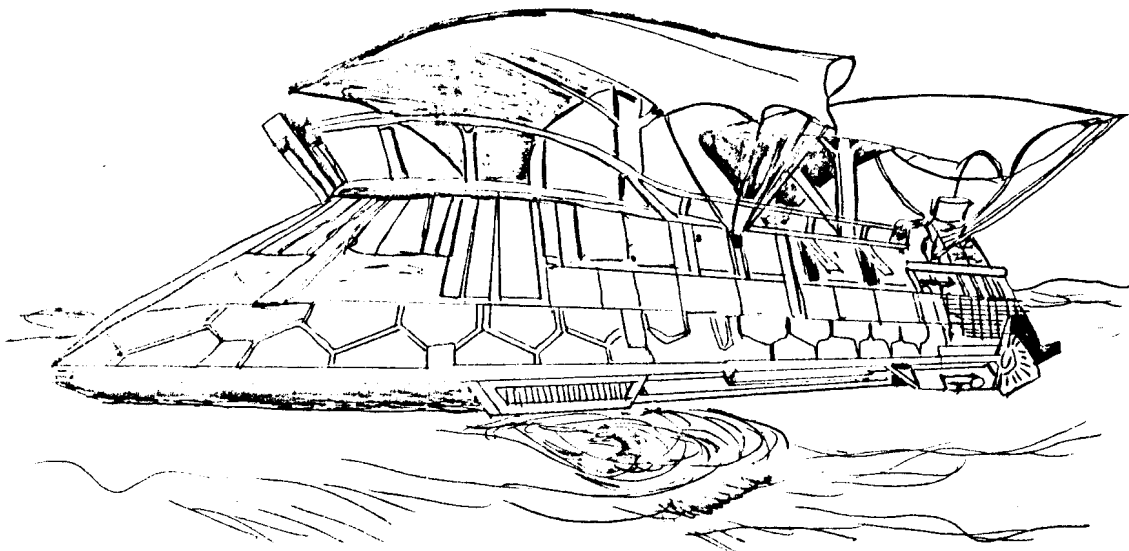
Monaco sometime; she does as she pleases and to hell with everyone else). Leia is absolute convinced she is right. Therein lies much of her power.

5. Ruthless, merciless, pitiless, remorseless. She shows no more regret than Han or Luke for who's killed or hurt. She does what has to be done. The only time she's ever completely vulnerable is when Alderaan dies; and even then we see her presumably only a short time later sleeping in her cell, responding to Luke's entry with a flippant remark about his height (especially snide coming from somebody who's five-foot-nothin'!). By the time they reach Yavin, it's "We have no time for our sorrows, commander." On Endor, does she cry for Luke--or for herself? "I can't tell you!" would indicate the latter. She may feel for him, but her immediate concern is herself.

Leia's position within the Alliance also deserves mention in this context. She is powerful in her own right as a princess, an ex-Senator, and as the symbol of lost Alderaan. She has within her orbit a redoubtable pilot/smuggler and the Last of the Jedi. She is in a position to make happen what she wants to happen. She's Force-gifted, strong-willed, and influential in Rebel councils. She's a person to be reckoned with. And indeed, many writers have seen her as the first President of the New Republic or in an equivalent position within whatever government replaces the Empire.

But.... The Grand Gamester? The Cosmic Chess-master? The Great Manipulator? I don't believe it of Leia anymore than you do. But she makes a better candidate for it than Han Solo.

All of this is merely a parlor game, after all. But the thing about such games is that one must play fair. An idea presented is an idea that must be defended; a concept argued must be supported. I've tilted Leia's actions to put a certain interpretation on them for the purposes of this particular parlor game. We all do the same thing at times. But I have yet to be shown why Han (or Luke or Leia or Lando or Yoda or whomever) ought to be regarded as the puppet master of the STAR WARS universe. I don't think there is one--unless his name is George Lucas.



REVIEWING THE FLEET



J. LOW 26

THE HERO'S JOURNEY: THE WORLD OF JOSEPH CAMPBELL
(A Mythology Limited film, 1986)

Reviewed by Maggie Nowakowska

"There is a wonderful life force that comes through, the wit and charm when Joe speaks, that--as wonderful as the books are--don't capture the man."

--George Lucas on the occasion of the presentation to Joseph Campbell of the Medal of Honor of the National Arts Club, 1986

Joseph Campbell is best known to SW fans as the man who wrote *HERO WITH A THOUSAND FACES*, one of the reference works George Lucas read when creating the *STAR WARS* saga. In *THE HERO'S JOURNEY: THE WORLD OF JOSEPH CAMPBELL*, Lucas admits that without Campbell's work to help him understand what he was trying to do, "I would probably still be writing *STAR WARS*."

THE HERO'S JOURNEY is only an hour long film, but by the end of it, I found myself wishing I could find some way, any way, to sit in on one of Campbell's classes. In a field where multitudes of names and varying relationships can overwhelm a student, Campbell's personable way of getting his information across was wonderful. This was a man with a sense of humor about himself and his material, a man who so affirmed life that, even just by watching a film, the viewer comes away feeling invigorated. Joseph Campbell died the first week of November, 1986, so my chance to enjoy one of his seminars is gone forever. Still, because of seeing this short film, whenever I go back to reread his material, I know I will hear as well as read what he has to say, and understand all the better for the experience.

The film combines biography with an exploration of the major themes in Campbell's works. The man's background is amazingly vital: he played in a jazz band in the 20's, was captain of the Columbia University track team (he became one of the fastest half-milers in the world), and even surfed in Hawaii with the best of the best long before California captured that culture. This man was no bookworm, lost in stories of worlds long gone before us. Through watching the historical Campbell interspersed with clips of Campbell at various seminars and discussion groups, the viewer comes to understand how alive this world's myths were to Campbell and how they became so to his students through Campbell's personality and teaching style.

Campbell's own spiritual development is explored to illustrate the connections of all humankind's

myths with one another. There is extensive discussion on Christianity vis-a-vis the Eastern religions in the film, followed by the presentation of what is, according to Campbell, the major question that faces the human race today: the establishment of a world myth, common to all, that will help us come to terms with our growing planet-wide community.

As a SW fan, I was delighted to see that the actual tracking of Campbell's interpretation of the Hero's Journey is done to selected scenes from *SW: A NEW HOPE*. Immediately following Luke's journey through myth, Campbell discusses the potential domination of humankind by technology, recalling the legend of Faust and the temptation represented by Mephistopheles; this reference indirectly includes *RETURN OF THE JEDI* since Campbell cited the application of Faust's quandry to the problem of Vader in other discussions of the *SW Saga*.(1)

I thought two points made in the film would be especially interesting for SE readers, considering some of the more heated discussions that have occurred in these pages and those of other SW letter-zines. First is Campbell's argument with the statement that "myth is a lie", insisting rather that myth is a metaphor for how life is to be lived. Second is the fact that Campbell taught at Sarah Lawrence College for 35 years. "I was," Campbell says regarding the latter, "by my female students, forced to consider the material from the point of view of a woman. And that point of view had to do with what does the material mean to life? What does it mean to me?"(2)

If you get a chance to see *THE HERO'S JOURNEY: THE WORLD OF JOSEPH CAMPBELL*, I recommend it highly. Check your nearby university theaters. If you can't find the film, transcripts are available from Mythology Ltd./8585 El Pasea Grade/La Jolla, CA 92037. SASE for mailing prices (at the theater, they sell for \$5.00), or call (619) 454-6512. For those SE readers already familiar with Joseph Campbell's work, be advised that Mythology Ltd. will be offering 5 different video tapes of Campbell's lectures; the order form is included with the transcript of *THE HERO'S JOURNEY*.

(1) THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW, Dec. 18, 1983.

(2) *THE HERO'S JOURNEY: THE WORLD OF JOSEPH CAMPBELL*, transcript.

Joseph Campbell's other books include, the *MASKS OF GOD* series; *MYTHS TO LIVE BY*; *THE MYTHIC IMAGE*; Volume One of the *HISTORICAL ATLAS OF WORLD MYTHOLOGY*; *THE WAY OF ALL ANIMAL POWERS* (Volume Two: *THE WAY OF THE SEEDED EARTH* was in production at the time of Campbell's death); *THE INNER REACHES OF OUTER SPACE: METAPHOR AS MYTH AND AS RELIGION*.

NOTES

From:

Ann Wortham
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Altamonte Springs, FL 32701

The following people paid deposits for SOUTHERN LIGHTS #3 but have not responded to flyers sent to them advising the zine is ready: Y. Bell, Mary Ann Bohling, Randi Cowan, Ginny Mila, Susan Rotellini, and Kay E. Wolf. If anyone knows their current address, please get in touch with either them or me. Thanks.

From:

Kate Birkel
2326 S. 12th St.
Omaha, NE 68108

No, I have not fallen off the edge of the galaxy and taken KHAEL with me in spite of the extremely long silence. My humblest apologies to all my wonderful contributors and the individuals who have CAsEd.

At the risk of sounding self-pitying and maudlin, the problem is a long-standing depression. Thanks to the intervention of a dear friend who happens to be a psychiatric RN and another friend who happens to be a psychiatrist and has been treating me on the "good buddy" discount, I am slowly, but surely, pulling up from the depths. I also managed to misplace the pasted-up masters of the zine when I moved my work area from one room to another one in my house about two months ago and just discovered the file today. Please, again accept my deepest apologies. I am finally beginning to feel like a human being again, and plan to finish up on KHAEL after the Christmas holidays. Thank you, everyone, for your patience and forbearance.

ART CREDITS:

Judith Low -- mastheads
Carol Peters -- 4, 18

LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS

Please note that Mazeltough Press' address has changed. It is now:

Mazeltough Press
c/o Cynthia Levine
1212 East Howell #6
Seattle, WA 98122

They would also like it known that GUARDIAN #4 is now out-of-print, despite the ad in Mos Eisley Marketplace.

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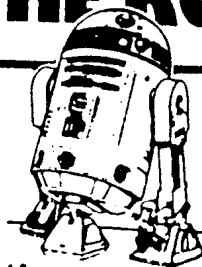
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(Above) June Edwards and
Angela-Marie Varesano

(Right) Maggie Nowakowska



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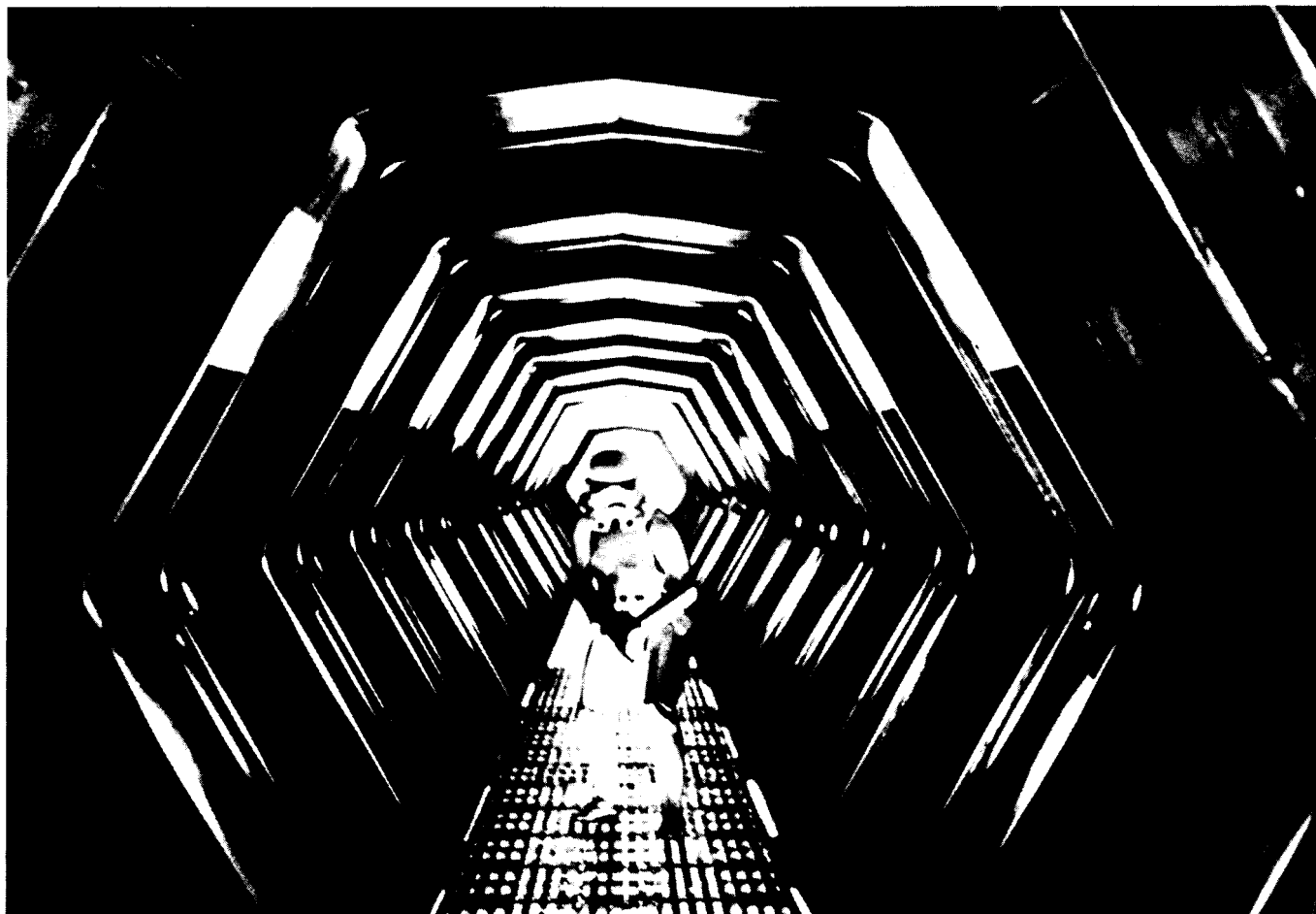


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Those Were the Days in Tatooine and Moscow



Echoing down the corridors of time and space: Star Wars ten years on.

AS TIME WARPS BY

This was going to be a weird one. I've pulled into a parking space and here, to my left, is a car with not one but a dozen little figures on the dashboard. I peer in, expecting to find Jesus and perhaps all twelve Apostles. Nope. Obi-Wan Kenobi, Yoda, R2D2, and several minor *Star Wars* deities. The owner of the car behind me doesn't hide his obsessions either: a Yoda hat on the rear dash, a "Magician on Board" sticker on the bumper. These were the kind of people who, driving through a narrow space, imagine themselves wooshing through the Death Star. What is going on here? The tenth anniversary celebration of *Star Wars* at the L.A. Stouffer Concourse Hotel.

Star Wars has embedded itself deeply into American film history (the second most popular film of all time), the economy (the *Star Wars* trilogy, through various merchandizing channels, has generated \$4 billion in sales), and world affairs (to its makers' regret, it has been permanently associated with the Strategic Defense Initiative). And after seeing an advance screening of the film in '77, I bought 20th Century-Fox stock. Six months later, I made enough on that deal to cover the down payment on a house. Thanks, George.

Of course, I was lucky. I invested in the completed product. Studios don't have that luxury when deciding what gets made. In the mid-Seventies both Universal and United Artists turned down the *Star Wars* script. Fox *did* have an idea what they had but were still myopic: they

judged that the film would not have a chance against *MacArthur*, *Exorcist II*, and *A Bridge Too Far*.

The 1987 Memorial Weekend celebration, however, may have proven, once and for all, that in Hollywood nearsightedness may be endemic. Fox considered reviving *Star Wars* in major cities for a one-day-only, May 25 tenth anniversary screening. Yet the studio decided against the idea; according to *L.A. Times* journalist Pat Broeske, Fox figured that *Star Wars* has played itself out on TV, cable, and cassette.

Perhaps. But if the Fox executives had visited the Stouffer Hotel, they would have had some serious second thoughts. Nine thousand people showed up. One of them was George Lucas.

Reclusive, he rarely visits these sorts of things. I can see why. The lobby bar

“Will I go ahead with another Star Wars film? Not for a while. I first have to do at least one more Indiana Jones and seven more Howard the Ducks.”

brimmed with Imperial Storm Troopers, Princess Leias, and one very tattered wookiee; just a bit more smoke and scum and it might as well have been the *Star Wars* cantina (incongruously, in the midst of it all, an evening-gowned hotel pianist played “The Way We Were”). In a corner Paul Marco, the cop from *Plan Nine from Outer Space*, signed autographs (celebrityhood comes easily in such gatherings). Upstairs, vendors sold Darth Vader head banks, Jedi underwear, and seven-year-old calendars. The real stuff was in a heavily guarded holy of holies: R2D2, X-wing fighters, *Raiders’ Ark of the Covenant* itself. About the only booth everyone ignored was one that proclaimed “Register Here for a Lake Tahoe Vacation.” If it had been Tatooine, they’d have been mobbed.

A musing, bizarre, a bit sad, this *Star Wars* gathering was troubling. The line between fans and fanatics is a fine one, the distinction between cult and culture not always clear. How healthy can a fixation-driven event be? What one vendor told me didn’t exactly help: “If Lucas announces, this afternoon, that there’d be no more *Star Wars* movies, these people would be devastated. Their lives would become empty, meaningless. If someone asked them to commit suicide, they would.”

An exaggeration, perhaps. I saw no proselytizing, no contentiousness, no dogmatic defensiveness—all essential ingredients for Kool-Aid cults. And despite the awesome, well-coordinated forces of marketing that have shaped the whole *Star Wars* phenomenon, the resulting behavior structure seemed riff-like: everybody pursued private variations on the *Star Wars* truth. Trekkies and Hobbit-lovers mingled freely with Imperial Storm Troopers and Jedi Masters. (Show me an event where Moonies mingle with Jehovah’s Witnesses, or Hare Krishnas with the Rajneeshis.) In a true cult, structures are so hidebound, authoritarian, and blind that even trivial variations are considered vulgar.

There also seems to be a white bread nerdiness to *Star Wars* devotees—for the most part these are the types who win science fairs, not football games. Cast off from the social mainstream, often lonely,

they find at such gatherings that, with their pretend-myths and trivia obsessions, they’re not quite as alone as they thought.

The best place to explore hardcore Star Warism was the line that formed hours in advance to see Lucas’ appearance. At the very front were some New Jersey fans who came just for this. “There’s something mysterious about George Lucas,” said Danielo Rose. “I think it’s because he was shy, just like me. Yet somebody like him just went out and did it.”

“Same with me,” interjected Tony Confessore. “He inspired me. At eight years old I saw *Star Wars* and decided that making films is what I wanted to do. If George Lucas could do it, so could I.”

It occurs to me that not one person at the convention was costumed as Luke Skywalker, but a lot of them looked like *George Lucas*: small, pale, awkward dreamers. There was a weird, new spin to this: *Star Wars* mania has turned into *nostalgia*. Here were teenagers who remembered Lucas’ saga as a childhood bedtime story, men and women in their twenties and thirties, who are already looking back. It’s really no different than Yuppies at a 20-year high school reunion who list all the characters from *Howdy Doody*. It even has something in common with the Fifties’ nostalgia, which Lucas helped unleash with *American Graffiti* (funny how everyone forgets that).

Let’s also not discount the primordial power of *Star Wars* itself. I’m not the first to note Joseph Cambell’s influence on the saga’s mythological geography; its archetypal elements can touch deeply. But again, even the passionate *Star Wars* fan doesn’t take its mythology all that seriously.

So why did I feel uneasy about all this? Maybe it’s the costumes. Rosemary Wymer, an especially intense attendee, told me: “Costumes represent an ability to create a whole new self.” Michael Montez added: “Costumes are sensory, visual things, just like these films.” Mary Rupert, garbed in some sort of indeterminate black costume, deflated it all: “It’s just fun, like Halloween.”

In the hotel coffee shop, a serious-looking young man was obviously eavesdropping on our conversation. “Sorry, but I can’t help hearing what you’re saying. My name’s Ken Dawson,” he said. He’d just

finished a two-year army stint and decided to drop by Los Angeles for this event on his way home. He had collected some very precise theories about cults and fans. “Science-fiction magazines talk about this stuff all the time,” he said. “There’s the ‘Fandom-Is-a-Way-of-Life’ school and the larger ‘Fandom-Is-a-Goddamn-Hobby’ group. They’re even labeled routinely by their initials: FIAWOL’ers and FIAGH’ers.” (I felt pretty ignorant. There I was lumping all these fans into a homogeneous cult, unaware that detailed epistemological treatises and codifications have long ago appeared in the likes of *Starlog*, which is co-sponsoring this event.)

When I went to check out the Lucas appearance, thousands were waiting. They were chanting his name—“Give me a G! Give me a E!”—as if it was a basketball game. The lights dimmed, John Williams’ familiar fanfare trumpeted through the ballroom. R2D2 and C3PO clanged out onto the stage. C3PO, in Anthony Daniel’s Oxfordian voice, whined, “Where am I? Los Angeles! Now I’m really worried.” Then came Darth Vader, who greeted the group with, “What *scum!* . . . My kind of people.”

The assembly roared when their true superstar trundled out. Lucas seemed bemused, a bit uncomfortable, with a cocky, crooked little smile. I tried to fathom what he was thinking. Forget it. There’s a highly effective psychological force field surrounding this guy, though every now and then I glimpsed his ambivalence about the mania.

“It’s great what *Star Wars* was . . . is . . . will be.” The crowd went nuts at “will be.” “Will I go ahead with another *Star Wars* film? Not for a while. I first have to do at least one more Indiana Jones film and seven more *Howard the Ducks*.”

Lucas seemed amused by the tack into trivia that the questions took. One person asked about a specific onscreen blooper in *Star Wars*. “There are a lot more mistakes in *Star Wars* than that,” teased Lucas. You could sense a ripple through the audience as devotees imagined a concordance of minor flubs.

Lucas’ compact little answers revealed little. Did he ever offer a *Star Wars* episode to Steven Spielberg to direct? “Yes, but he’s reluctant. He knows how much

work it would be." Off to the side, unrecognized by the crowd, Irwin Kirchner, *The Empire Strikes Back's* director, nodded. What kind of film course would Lucas recommend over others? "Writing." Why did he opt for producing over directing? "It's the difference between a 60-hour work week and a 20-hour work week." What excites him now? "*Willows*, which Ron Howard is directing for us. This is our chance to prove that a pure, successful fantasy film is possible." What is his personal philosophy? He winces for a second. "Enjoy life and love people."

Simple enough. But George Lucas is a reluctant messiah. Even if he had charis-

ma, he wouldn't use it. Veneration makes him uncomfortable. Kowtowing irritates him. Most of all, this private, prudent man managed to keep *Star Wars* mania in its place. He's not L. Ron Hubbard, after all. There will be no May-The-Force-Be-With-You-ology, ever. As Lucas once sensibly described the *Star Wars* phenomenon, "It just has to do with people happening to like dumb movies."

A decade ago, escapist movies seemed to be what we needed. Today they're what we need to escape. *Star Wars*, for now, is best left in the past, venerated from afar.

—MARC MANCINI

Los Angeles Times

Film Director Richard Marquand Dies at Age 49

British film director Richard Marquand, whose box-office hits included "Jagged Edge" and "Return of the Jedi," died Friday morning in a hospital outside London. He was 49.

The hospital did not release the cause of death, but the British domestic news agency, Press Association, said the director had suffered a stroke last Sunday.

At the time of his death, Marquand had been awaiting the autumn release of his "Hearts of

Fire." It is a musical drama starring Bob Dylan, who portrays a legendary musician who for a decade has been a self-exiled gentleman farmer in rural Pennsylvania.

As director of "Return of the Jedi," the third "Star Wars" movie, George Lucas picked Marquand from a long list of those vying for the job. At the time he was selected, Marquand had just two feature films to his credit and no science-fiction experience.

"I never really inquired why

Lucas wanted me," Marquand said in an interview with *The Times* in 1981. "I suppose he was looking for a younger-generation film maker who could work quickly and didn't have an ego problem. You can't be an *auteur* when you direct a 'Star Wars.' You have to be able to work very closely with Lucas."

Marquand's other film credits include the "Eye of the Needle" and "Until September."

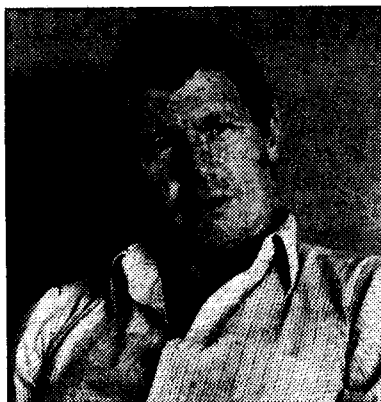
Before films, Marquand worked in the television industry. He di-

rected "The Birth of the Beatles" and the "Search for the Nile," which won an Emmy in 1972.

Marquand, son of former British Health Minister Hilary Marquand, was born in Cardiff, Wales, and was educated at King's College, Cambridge, where he studied modern languages.

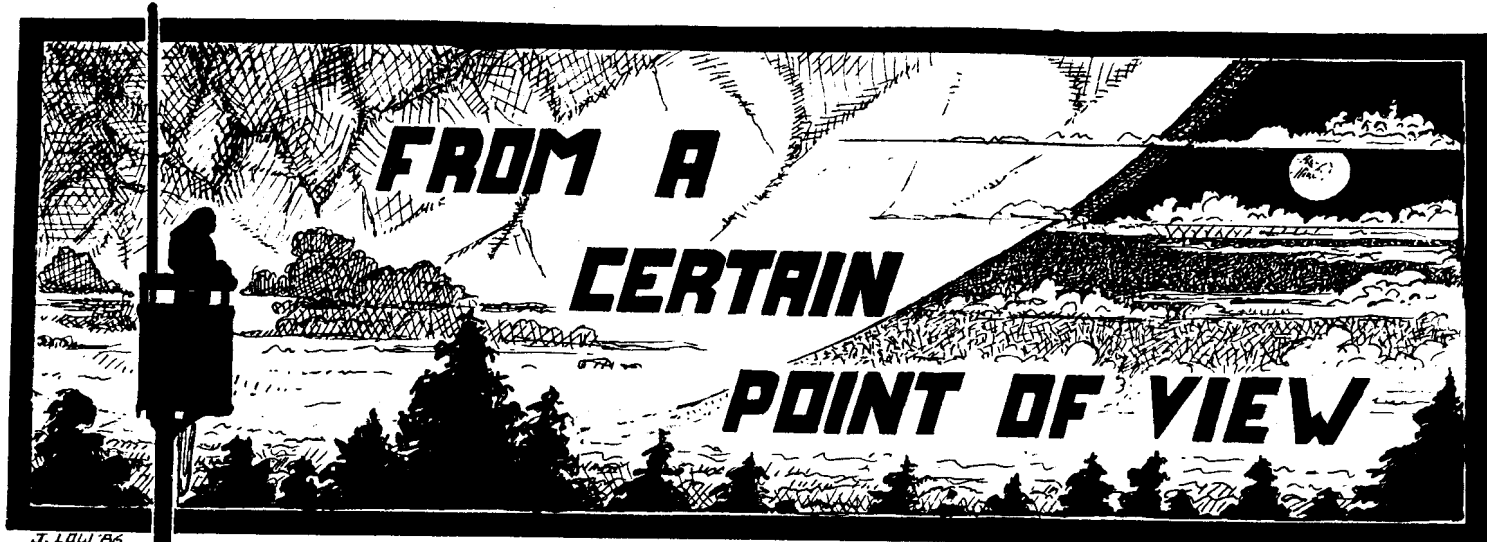
He entered the Royal Air Force and was stationed briefly in Hong Kong, where he later took a job as a newscaster. After returning to Britain, Marquand directed several television documentaries for the British Broadcasting Corp.

Marquand was married twice and had four children.



Los Angeles Times

Richard Marquand



J. LOW '86

Marti Schuller
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Lee's Summit, MO 64063

September 9, 1987

I received my welcome copy of SOUTHERN ENCLAVE #16 not long ago and want to get this off to you as soon as possible. I thoroughly enjoyed my first experience with a letterzine and compliment you on your fine publication as well as your well-deserved Fan Q Award. As a novice to the art of letterzine writing, I trust your readers will bear with me in this initial effort.

Congratulations to you and your husband on the birth of your beautiful baby girl. She is a real sweetheart and, as mother to two boys of my own, I advise you to cherish your time with her. It will go by faster than you can now imagine. Best of wishes to you all. I am sorry you had such a difficult time getting her here, though.

I was also concerned to read of your mugging. You were indeed very lucky that you were not more seriously injured. I have, unfortunately, had some small experience with the criminal element of our society and I share your anger and frustration.

Now, on to more pleasant subjects. I enjoyed Sandi Jones' account of MediaWest*Con very much. I wish I could have had the opportunity to go, especially since a certain Corellian could manage it all the way from the Outback. But, as Satchel Paige once said, never look back. Sandi's hilarious reporting has motivated me at long last and I have vowed to attend next year's con if I must crawl there on bloody knees.

I am taking my cue for writing this from the format of the copy I have. I hope this is correct. If not, please advise me and I'll change my style accordingly. Thanks. ((Ed: You're doing just fine. There's no set way to write, just as long as you write!))

Matthew Whitney: Your idea for a story concerning Han's cynicism towards the Force is interesting, even if it has all ready been treated similarly. I, for one, dislike Han having any real talents for use of the Force and found great enjoyment in Mary Jean Holmes' story, "Fire of the Mind" that dealt with this issue to my satisfaction. I highly recommend it to you.

Melanie Rawn: Remember, I'm new. Congratulations on the publication of your fantasy trilogy! I checked with my local bookstore, however, and was unable to find any copies. Do you, perhaps write under a pseudonym? If so, pray tell, what? I would

love to support fellow SW fans who succeed in making it as professionals, but I need more information, apparently.

I loved your vivid description of the 10th anniversary con. The beer commercial routine in the ballroom sounded fabulously funny.

I could not agree with you more on the spending our government does for worthwhile projects like the Jet Propulsion Lab rather than on more weaponry. Why do we need more, so we can kill each other ten times over instead of five? Rambo mentality!

I loved the bumper sticker quote, too.

Barbara Gardner: Please accept my sincerest sympathy in the loss of your mother. There are no words to help, but time will ease your emptiness. I know from personal experience.

I found your comments on having read LORD OF THE RINGS because of the recommendations of others in SE to be very enlightening. I had thought that a letterzine remained very close to its original source of existence, in SE's case, STAR WARS. The fact that other books and films could be discussed and used to broaden our knowledge (not to mention understanding of the true worth of SW) is a delightful surprise to me. (Well, I admitted I was new to this type of zine, didn't I?) Along that same vein, I would like to know if you've ever read any of the DRAGONLANCE books, or if any other readers have, for that matter? These are my personal favorites and I strongly encourage you and others to experience them. Especially if you like the anti-hero type, as I surmise you do by the references in your letter to the Dark Lord. Another good series is THE BELGARIAD, which now has a new series starting titled THE MALLOREAN. All are terrific fantasy/sword and sorcery reading.

Carolyn Gollledge: It was so wonderful to talk to you on the phone during your visit to our beloved country! I only wish I could have been with you at MediaWest, too. Thank you for your mention in your last letter. I hope by now you are fully recovered from your stay here and feeling much better. I miss your great and wise guidance on how to write a believable Han Solo, mate. Take care.

Maggie Nowakowska: Your comments on Vader and his knowledge, or lack of knowledge, concerning his offspring are well put. (I presume this topic's been going on some time, but being the neophyte, allow me my ignorance, please.) I would like to offer my humble 'point of view'. I have always felt that Vader did not know of his wife's pregnancy due to his self-interest at the time, being the same time as his slow beginning seduction by Palpatine. A friend of mine, Veronica Wilson, felt

that Palpatine could have learned who Luke was after the first Death Star was destroyed and made the connection, withholding the knowledge from Vader until it suited him and served his purpose. I like this idea as it sounds typical of Palpatine to me and proves his means of controlling Vader. I also personally feel that Yoda was surprised to learn that Vader knew of his relationship to Luke and agree with you as to his reaction had he not been dying. I feel Skywalker was perhaps a not too uncommon name, you see.

I LOVE the proposed story/zine labels, although some would require a combination of 3 or 4 labels. Still, they're great and should go with each story in all zines, effective immediately.

Sandi Jones: I would like to second your call for some comments on fan fiction. Feedback is every author's sustenance, oxygen, nourishment, etc. and lately a lot of new SW writers, like me, are barely getting enough to survive. Please, let us know we are being read, even if we aren't agreed with or even liked! I think SE could be an ideal place for such feedback as well as lively follow-up discussions on each author's ideas.

As an afterword, I'd like to comment on the anonymous letter about the film SPACEBALLS. I agree totally with Cheree that the letter's author needs help from true SW fans who will lead him/her into the light. While I found the film itself to be a big disappointment (it could've been sooo good), it certainly was not offensive. C'mon, people, let's reach out to our fellows and make sure they know reality from our common fun and games. Dreams are wonderful but life must be lived, no matter how difficult. That's why fandom's so great! We can be "crazy" with each other, band together against the "isolated lonelies" and still help each other see our fantasies for what they are--good wholesome fun. Agree?

Well, that's it. Did I fail miserably in my first effort? I hope not. I really look forward to becoming an active participant in the future. Until next time, may the Force be with us, always!

STAR WARS PLATES

Lin S. Ward
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September 13, 1987

It's great to hear again from SE, and get such a bonanza of pictures and articles in addition to the letters!

Little Katy is such a doll--thank you for the pictures! I'm looking forward to regular progress reports! Sorry the delivery was so harrowing--what an experience!

It was great to relive MWC through Sandi's article and the photos--can't wait for next year! I'm glad the Jedi was able to show a thing or two to the Corellian! Carolyn's poster is terrific! Don't know how I missed it, so glad someone got a shot of it.

Particularly enjoyed the cartoons from SKYWALKER, which reminded me so much of the skywalks in my home town, especially when I noted that it is, indeed, my hometown (Des Moines)!

Wonderful news that you're going to resume the zines. CHOICE PARTS and TREMOR were excellent, and I'm eager to read the new issues next year!

Sally Syrjala: Thoroughly enjoyed your essay on the peace statement made in STAR WARS. Loved your reference to "mental special effects"--I saw a few starbursts when I read these paragraphs!

Mary Keever: I subbed to the SW plates and so far my favorite is easily the Han Solo, which won pride of place in my living room, within easy view of my favorite reading chair. The Leia plate just came, and it's very good if you don't look at her too-fat, jutting lower lip. Can't believe that the next plate is of Imperial walkers, I mean, \$30 for that! It's a lovely picture of the walkers, but I wouldn't pay 30 cents for it under normal circumstances. Yet, I want to stay in the series in case they come up with a great Luke plate. Has anyone blown themselves to one of the expensive frames, and if so, how does it look? I've just got the little plastic ones.

Matthew: In C. J. Cherryh's books, the clones are all trained with learning tapes, so their thought processes are very strictly controlled. This mind control, which can be practiced on anyone, is even more frightening than the ability to create whatever kind of being you want at will. Ahem, I've got a reading closet like that, too.

Melanie Rawn: Wow, congratulations on selling your trilogy! Be sure to tell us when to start watching for it! I never did find your romance novel--which publisher and pen name did you use? How can I get a copy?

Thanks for quoting the D.V. repartee at the SW con. Wish I'd been there, except that I had a priceless great time at MWC!

Tim "Wrong Way" Blaes: Is your MWC tape the official one they were advertising? I sent a SASE for info, but haven't heard anything on it. The "Repo Man" skit was WONDERFUL! Anybody know where it'll be published? I didn't get a copy of the script for the (Fan Q Winning!) "Search for Spock" skit and deeply regret it; it was also super.

Haven't I read that zine fantasy in a Heinlein novel? *grin*

Barbara Gardner: I'm so sorry to hear about your mother!

I got into sf/f fiction the same way you did! Boy, was I surprised to find out that many of my favorite writers have their own fandoms, with apas, fan clubs, round robins, zines, the works! You know what they say! "Once you turn to The Fandom Side, forever will it dominate your destiny"! Take care!

Carolyn Golledge: Forty hours of travel? Will you ever walk again??? What an awful/funny story about your sprained shoulder and the Han poster! Dani surely was on your wavelength! It was so much fun to meet you at the con--thank you for introducing yourself! Hope you can come again soon--we'll surely be thinking of you!

Sharon Saye: All your questions about the Jedi and Darksiders are fascinating. I wish George would tackle the first trilogy to explain these things, if nothing else. Of course, if the past is anything to go by, we'd be just as confused as we are now! I haven't been able to account for Vader's Fall from the facts as we know them--surely every person is tempted to misuse power? So, maybe struggling

against the Dark Side isn't the unusual part, maybe whatever the Jedi did to handle people who "fell", failed with Vader? Maybe people who normally fell to the Dark Side were so ill-equipped to handle it that they destroyed themselves? Were eaten up by exposure to Dark Side elements? Maybe a Dark Sider of the Emperor's strength was unusual? Maybe it was a combination of the right people at the right time--a disaffected Jedi, a Darksider with lots of powerful connections, and a weakening political/defense structure in the galaxy?

Maggie N.: I agree that it was entirely reasonable for Obi-Wan and Yoda to expect Vader to regard Luke as a rival, even if he were turned to the Dark. If Vader had wanted to recruit one or more, er, assistants, over the years, what's stopped him? It's possible that his offer to Luke on the gantry was just another ploy, even then, to best him. It's possible from the events of the movies to believe that Vader never had plans for Luke, although I recall now that it was his idea in TESB to turn Luke rather than kill him. I wonder why the Emperor didn't think of it first? Maybe it's much, much more rare to successfully turn someone than I'd expect?

Loved your zine code symbols!

B. J. Evans: I'd really like to see an in-depth character study on Yoda. He does seem to take everything much more in stride than Ben does; he never appears too startled or at a loss, the only times he seems terribly aroused are when he's annoyed during his training of Luke. He also got very upset when Luke cut off his training--maybe he foresaw the possibility that Luke might try to convert his father, and would need stronger skills for that task and/or for facing failure of that task, than he would to kill Vader. Well, I guess it's obvious that Luke would have a big psychological battle no matter what the circumstances.

Bev Clark: Loved your ideas about departed Jedi choosing who to talk to and when. Wish they'd talk to me!

Sandi Jones: The Luke doll is terrific! What a roommate! Good analysis of Palpatine's use of power. I can see a gullible Anakin getting sucked into such a morass.

Cheree: Well, the story of WILLOW sounds very intriguing, whether it turns out to be SW or not. I'm almost afraid to speculate now, because I got SO excited before the SW con, expecting the Announcement.

((Ed: Well, the speculation turned out to be just that. WILLOW is not SW1. I met Terry Erdman, who now works for Lucasfilm, at StarCon in Denver in September, where he had presentations for WILLOW and answered some definite questions about SW. According to Terry, the first trilogy will be done "sometime this decade", although Terry admitted he didn't know if that meant before 1990 or before 1997. But the best news of all is that the script for SW1 is in the works! WILLOW is being directed by Ron Howard and looks to be a superbly done fantasy film with a story-line vaguely reminiscent of LABYRINTH. This is the first film that George has worked hands-on since RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK and it shows in the production. It will premiere on (what else?) May 25, 1988. INDY III is supposed to go into production in January or February and, after that? Dare we hope--STAR WARS I???)

Catherine Churko: Hi! Liked your comment that forms of violence are "manifestations of a broken connection in a person being able to feel their own humanity and therefore others'." I, too, am con-

fused as to why Obi-Wan didn't sense Anakin's shift toward the Dark. In DRAGON'S TEETH, Carol Hines-Stroede suggests that he was starting to feel dissatisfied, then got kidnapped and brainwashed by the Emperor, while Obi-Wan was distracted with fighting the downfall of the Republic. The idea that Anakin was away when he "took the plunge" makes more sense than that he stayed right under Obi-Wan's nose during his conversion.

Pat Easley: I agree, when Mark wants to look cold, those silver-blue eyes can look terrifyingly chill. I read that his first few roles were of amoral juvenile delinquents, in fact. Brrr! Is your bus going to MWC via Richmond? (ha ha)

All, take care!

FIRST LETTER

Debbie Kittle
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Silver Spring, MD 20906

September 18, 1987

Hello, everyone. This is my first letter to SE so here goes nothing (or everything):

I'd like to address one point that was brought up in the early issues of SE. (My first SE was #15 but I read the back issues.) Along around #5 and #6, there was a discussion about Han in ROTJ and his attempt to open the back door. Someone stated they thought Han was blind (I never bought that) or he was still suffering the effects of carbon freezing (much more plausible). A thought that has stayed with me is that it wasn't Han's fault (yes, I know he has faults, he's not perfect), but the Emperor's.

Palpatine was expecting the attack on the shield generator so, as a precaution, he had the schematics changed. Han sounded pretty confident when he thought he had opened the door. As I said, just a thought and now on to the current letters...

Ming: I am also new to SW fandom. I only found out about zines through an ad in STARLOG for THE WOOKIEE COMMODORE and I've been hooked ever since though it's been slow. A friend and I tried our hand at writing and were successful at getting it published (thank you, Mary and Samia), though it took us awhile to get up enough courage to send it in. Hopefully next year I'll make it to MWC.

Mary Keever: Love those plates! I've gotten all 3 and am waiting on the fourth. I was extremely happy that Han was first, but am not a Church of Ford fan.

Anonymous: I consider myself a true fan of the SW universe. I love Han, Leia, Luke and all the other characters but I did go see SPACEBALLS. I really loved it, too. It was great. The movie was only a parody, nothing more. Since George isn't providing us with a new SW movies, I'll take what I can get and I say thank you, Mel Brooks.

I definitely agree with what you said about the anonymous writer, Cheree.

Carolyn: Glad you enjoyed your trip to the

USA. I love that poster!

I have a quick question to ask: Where and when can I get to read the sequel to "Form Reversal" that was printed in CIRCLE OF LIGHT #4? Since CoL is no longer published, I don't want to miss the sequel, for I really liked the story a lot.

Sharon: I've always thought that the Jedi were basically Lightsiders, teaching their pupils the dangers of the Dark and probably having few problems until Anakin showed up.

I feel Vader was definitely unexpected or the rest of the Jedi would've been prepared for the resulting massacre. Perhaps Luke's being shown in a constant state of conflict and Darkside potential is a foreshadowing of "like father, like son."

Maggie: Interesting PoV re paternal rivalry as well as Palpatine's view being colored by the Dark. Perhaps he saw what Yoda and Ben saw but interpreted it to his way of thinking.

Mon Mothma knowing A/DV are one and the same? I say yes to that since she's been there since the intrigue started.

Did MM know L & L were Anakin's kids? My feelings are heading in the affirmative direction but not 100%. Not enough concrete proof, of course.

I believe Yoda knew from the beginning (being a Jedi Master, after all). If he knew this, why didn't he know about the Purge? Maybe he did but knew that a new beginning would take place as well. "Always in motion is the future," but I think Yoda knew more than he was telling.

Darth didn't know about Luke. I think he had to do some investigating to find out about his son. When he did find out, he probably thought, "I had a son and didn't even know."

Poor Bail. I'm sure Ben told him something of what was going on and out of love (I feel he may have loved Mrs. Skywalker from afar) and honor, married her. Maybe Bail gave a statement stating that Mrs. S was widowed and wanted a father for her child. Who knows, perhaps the Alderaan don't have such tight scrutiny of their leaders/public figures as we do--as long as there was a rightful heir produced if succession was along bloodlines?

If MM knew about Mrs. S and Bail, she was probably powerful enough to find out what she needed to know re A/DV but kept it to herself to use if need be at the right time or not at all if she were good friends with Bail and/or Leia.

Did everyone involved know about the twins? No. Ben did and I think Yoda did from the start. Did Bail? Maybe yes. He was an important figure in the Alliance and could be trusted but then again, he might have been kept in the dark (no pun) in case of possible interrogation. Y and B couldn't afford any possible leaks.

What if Mrs. S never even knew she had twins? She could've been drugged (by Ben?) or unconscious while giving birth and when she woke up, there was only a baby girl. Ben would've taken Luke away immediately.

Endless possibilities. Come on, George, how about Episode 1?!

B. J.: I second your recommendation of "Marginal Error" by Mary Jean Holmes. It really is a good story.

Mary U.: Congrats on the Fan Q for WC#3.

Just a few quickies: Congrats to SE on its Fan Q and to Cheree on the birth of Katy.

Thanks to everyone who pointed out so many unknown aspects of the SW saga (example: Luke's look to Han as he says "...worm ridden..."). I just watched the trilogy in my home and was amazed at

how much I missed even after 30 viewings (or so, but who's counting?) of each movie.

Hopefully in November, I'll be heading to Star Tours. I can't wait!!

Another vote, though late, for Duncan Regehr to play Anakin Skywalker.

In SE#11, Linda Kerry was having trouble with the zine ECHO SEVEN, put out by Darla Doxstater. I have never received my zine from her and have written to both addresses two times with no response. Anyone heard anything new?

Lastly, I'd like to say that I like Luke a lot and might even lust after him a little especially when he wears his Jedi outfit; however, poor Han. It seems he's outnumbered. Let's have a lot more Han lust, ladies!!! You don't want to get Han mad, do you?!

T'l next time, fly the Millennium Falcon, the only way to smuggle.

NOT A "NEW" FAN

Melanie Guttierrez
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September 17, 1987

This, I suppose, is my first LoC. Although I have years of strong opinions on everything SW, it seems foolish to "jump into the fray" when I don't yet know the membership or the current "hot topics". (I would venture to guess that Luke, a/k/a S.S. Scruptious Skywalker, is a perennially hot topic, at least he is for me!)

Well, being a motormouth, one way conversations are a speciality; so I'll begin with an introduction.

I'm Melanie, blissfully single, an unorganized artist (not yet starving but close), sliding into my mid-thirties and HOPELESSLY in love with the SW universe. So many "old" SW fans have told me I'm a "new" fan, I have now accepted it as fact; although the last four years have seemed awfully long!

If anyone can believe it, I walked into a local cinema complex on May 29, 1983, with absolutely NO knowledge of ANYTHING SW. I sat there in the dark and watched JEDI "cold." The experience was mind-blasting...I went from paralysis to quivering lump of protoplasmic residue that cheered and cried as the final credits rolled through that magnificent music. Nothing has been the same since.

In that theater, I fell profoundly in love with most powerful concept ever placed on film.

Sure, I also fell in love with Luke (sigh), Han, Ben, the droids, the ships, and Yoda--but it was the idea behind SW that intrigued me then and enthralls me now.

I didn't see ANH until it premiered on cable TV in 1984. True mania set in then, but it was another whole year until I stayed awake until 2am at a con to see TESB. Talk about a deprived life!! Then I joined the OSWFC, getting in, as it turned out, as it was winding down. I didn't know that, tho; I was just so thrilled to be in touch in some way.

Like everyone else, I bought merchandise, got a fantastic penpal, wrote letters to Maureen Garrett.

Try to remember what it felt like to get involved with the SW phenomenon for the first time... now imagine how it felt to learn I had discovered it too late! I knew NO ONE else who felt as I did; if it hadn't been for my penpal, Jan, the little light SW had kindled in me would have died for lack of fuel.

One would have to know how provincial New Orleans is to understand how I could know nothing of clubs, cons, fanzines or the vast network of fellow addicts that has existed all the while.

To amuse myself and preserve my sanity(?), I've been writing stories, filling in the Saga as I think it would have been and as I would like it to be. Has anyone else gotten so involved in their own version of "fill in the blanks" that you've hopelessly mixed it with the "real" version? Worse yet, you think yours is better?!?

Such was my state--still is, actually--and I would have continued in resigned isolation until STARLOG had the preposterous gall to pronounce SW fandom "dead". To say I resented the assumption that I no longer existed is putting it mildly. They dared to bury the Saga alive (although comatose) and have the temerity to call it death by neglect! Qurs!?!?

When the steam died down (I still hiss at the derisive attitudes of most media/SF articles), I got busy writing.

I wrote Lisa Cowan first, she gave me my first Hamill fix. Then Sandy Durham and I began commiserating about the STARLOG article and now there is the SW Fan Alliance. It was Sandy's baby, but she let me feel included on something from the beginning for a change.

Since then, everyone I've been in contact with has been nothing short of fantastic... Barbara Gardner, she of the leather and heavy breathing fetish (thanks for liking "Exceptions", Barb); Lisa Cowan, thanks to whom I may one day overdose on Mark Hamill (but what a way to go!); Carolyn Frodsham, who has welcomed me into Sons and Daughters of the Force with patience and enthusiasm; Nacolle Parsons, a severe case of Hamill-itis, who writes 12 page letters and introduced me to the "trade" universe; Lisa Thomas, who answered a plea quickly and generously; and, of course, Cheree, whose gift of a sample copy of SE finally hooked me up to the SW life-support system.

I can never thank all of you enough. You reaffirmed my wavering faith in the human race as a species.

As I said, I have many definite theories of my own regarding the beginning, and the end, of the Saga. I think those should wait until my next LoC; then we'll all have a chance to agree or disagree with each other.

For now, it's enough for me to feel so blasted GOOD about finding you all! It's still hard to think of myself as a "new" fan, tho. It seemed like I was the only fan for such a long time... If being "new" is what feels so good, I hope the newness never wears off! CELEBRATE THE LOVE!!

Maggie Nowakowska
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Seattle, WA 98102

October 14, 1987

What interesting clippings last issue! Now, can anyone please tell me how one gets a copy of the Campbell show, "The Hero's Journey"? Or source information so I can bug my local PBS station to carry it?

For your records, Cheree, that's me in the Mon Mothma picture you published last issue. And I'd like to thank Judith Grove for her lovely compliment on the costume. It was a fun outfit and very comfortable--I wonder if MM could get away with wearing as little under it as I did?

Reading the classifieds, I sure was glad to see a couple of new zines/issues proposed! Thank you, Cheree and Sandi Jones, for keeping the flame alive.

Mary Keever asks for comments on the SW plates. I've been very happy with their quality. The art is nicely done, with accurate representation (unlike the stiffness of the STrek plates, or the artificial cast to other plates I've seen), and the backgrounds that are nicely interpretive. The current plate of Imperial Walkers doesn't thrill me so much, but I have confidence that the artist will do a good job on them. I really liked Leia's plate, most probably because I was afraid they'd go for the cheesecake; the assertiveness in her pose is refreshing.

Lin Ward raises a good point by suggesting that a person who is undergoing a Dark Side temptation cannot be interfered with by extracorporeal entities. Makes sense from a student/teacher point of view since there comes a time in mundane education when the teacher must step aside and let the student sink or swim on her own, no matter the consequences. Anyone who's had to care for/raise a child is familiar with the phenomena: you simply can't do the really serious stuff for your charges.

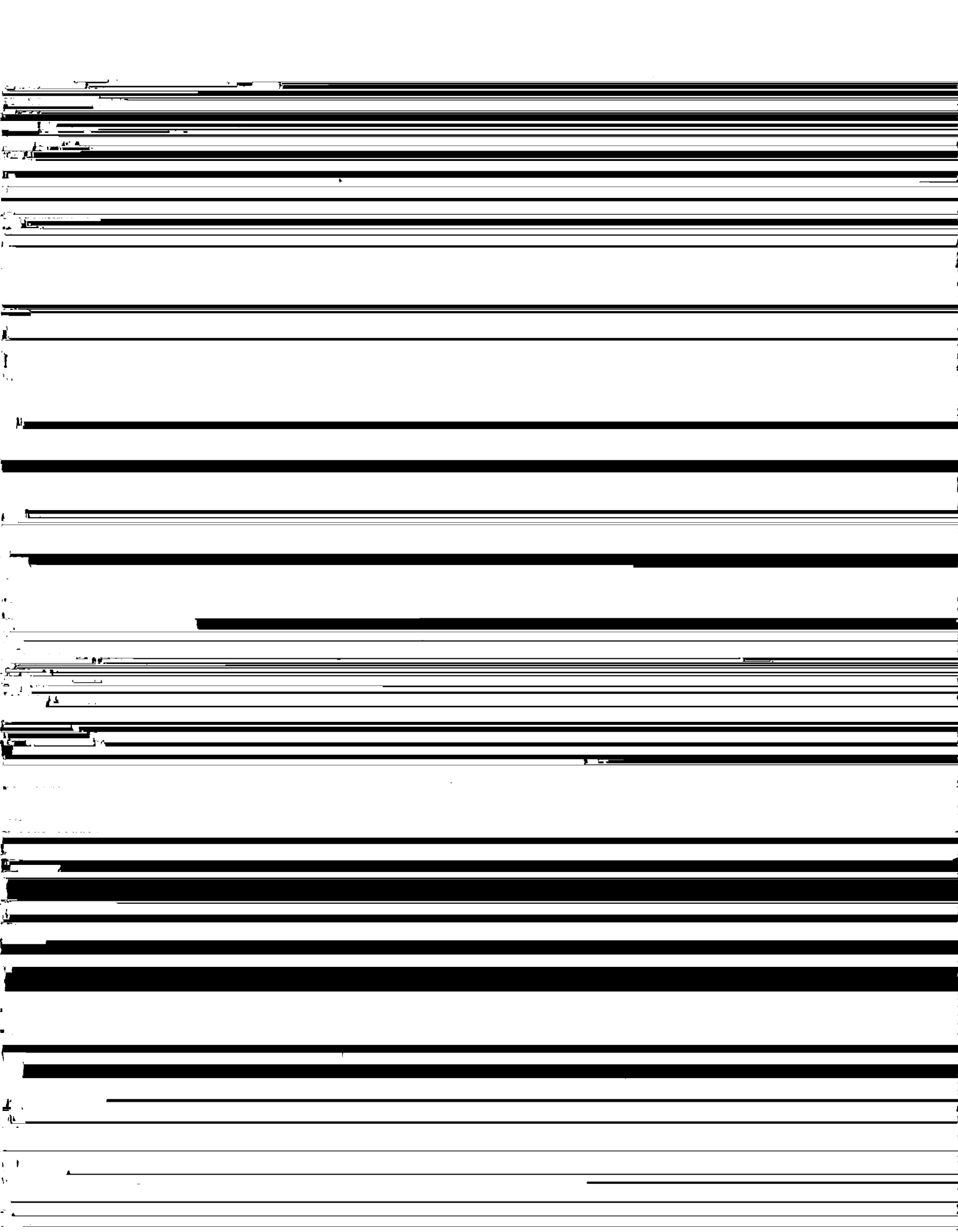
A fannish correspondent of mine has suggested that Kenobi's major problem with Anakin may be that Ben could not let go as a teacher; that perhaps Kenobi was so involved with Anakin, was so caught up in his identification with Skywalker that Anakin ended up breaking away from Ben so violently that he was ripe for the temptation Palpatine offered him (anything but Kenobi!).

Maybe, as Sandi Jones asked, it seems that everyone is after Vader specifically because Ben and Yoda do not feel they are capable of stopping Palpatine themselves (for whatever reason) and believe that by eliminating Vader, they stymie Palpatine's succession.

Catherine Churko: Hmmm. A neon East Coast "Enclave" sign. Did you ever find out what business that building houses? As for the Force as fact, not article of faith, yes, I meant in the prominent western Judeo/Christian culture. (I like some of the Native American names for the fundamental life force: orenda (Iroquois), wakanda (Dakota), manito (Algonquin), pokunt (Shoshone), coen (Athabasca). Although some people argue that these terms are not synonymous with ki or chi, there are certainly many cogent aspects to the various notions.)

Thinking along these lines, I wonder if the Alliance views generals the same way a war chief is viewed by Amerind tribal societies: not necessarily as someone who has climbed a heirarchical ladder, but as someone whom warriors will follow, someone of proven leadership who will step forward when needed with his band of soldiers and who will simply be





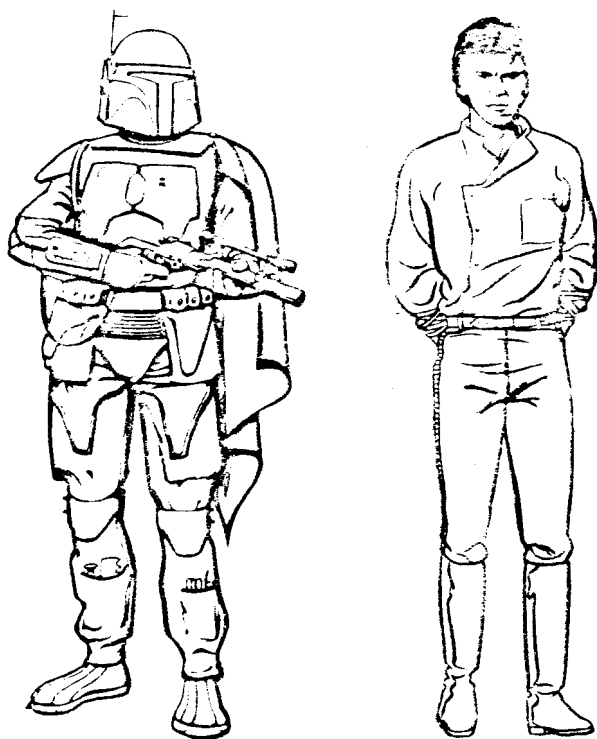
the younger Jedi to see the light (sic) and so, once he had Vader's talents in hand, he eliminated those whose beliefs were heretical to his.

The worlds of the Republic might have at first considered Palpatine and his followers simply as another space tribe whose problems were not theirs until it was too late, until they discovered that Palpatine's tribe believed in coming in and imposing his ideas on everyone, rather than following the common "live and let live" notion. The planets, like the Jedi, might have discovered their susceptibility too late. Likewise the general spacer population which was too long dependent on the Jedi who had grown out of them to take care of things. Perhaps those spacers were as decadent as the general populations, letting their children grow up thinking of the Jedi as merely esoteric ministers of their planets (since the Forceful reality of seat-of-the-pants piloting could be so ingrained that no one really considered it a wonderful talent anymore, as "it's natural so why make a fuss about it?" Hence, Han's comment about hokey religions despite his own abilities.

And, perhaps it's taken so long for the Alliance to gather its power because it had to establish the kind of cooperation necessary to fight Techno Law 'n' Order among planetary governments accustomed to letting someone else handle it, and because it had to do that while still maintaining the tribal PoV values. The genius of Mon Mothma and her fellow commanders was the ability to smell a rat when Palpatine first appeared, and the talent to be able to preserve their beliefs despite the temptation to fight fire with fire.

This is a bit of hodge-podge, I know, and a rewrite of recent Terran experiences with cultural imperialism, but it may have merit as a noneconomic way of interpreting the Republic/Imperial dichotomy.

Well, Cheree, that's all this time for me--only 4 pages! I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season, however it's celebrated. I'm looking forward to a new year's issues of SE and lots to talk about!



Ming Wathne
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Tomorrow, tomorrow, I'll write a LoC tomorrow. Well, that ought to be my theme. At least that seems to be it. I have been trying to get this off to you since the week after I received #16. That was three months ago, I think, but at last. First, thanks for the letter in the notes. That situation turned out to be extremely distasteful. It seems that the death notice was in reality a hoax. Ann Carver was a pen name. The whole thing was really a nasty business. I have since received the money back, but it has left a very bad taste.

Congratulations on the little one; they are really a joy (also at times a pain in the nether regions, but yours is too new for you to know about that).

Now to get out the boxing gloves.

Sally Syriala: This generation is no more me than any other! The balance between caring about your brother (your brother's keeper) or being his jailer can be a very fine line. In the trilogy, I find it quite interesting as people claim how Han has changed, become caring, etc. It is utter nonsense. Han was always caring. He loved and cared for Chewie. He had to live in a situation which demanded a protective shell. You do not show vulnerability where it can be taken advantage of if you care to exist. Han did not change, his circumstances did!

Mary Keever: Yahoo for the plates! Leia was also a beauty. Have to figure some way where the earthshakers won't knock them off the wall.

Lin S. Ward: The situation with Lucas is unfortunately a little too common. Somehow he doesn't understand the fans' position. At Cactus Con, we asked if he, Lucas, was no longer interested in his universe then he could at least choose a good author to do some books. The audience was very enthusiastic, but the moderator was less than overjoyed.

A little fun aside on the trilogy. It was shown at the Con. A local theater was used. The audience just about came apart when EMPIRE was shown. It was a Spanish-subtitled version. Aside from the occasional snicker about the translation, the introduction was in Spanish. It was being read aloud by some of the audience and exactly translated by others, dual stereo language. The editing was also interesting. They had added a small clip where Lando goes out to rescue Luke and the sound track of Han's screams was deleted. Interesting.

Matthew Whitney: A little more cogitation on Clones. We now know that drugs, alcohol, smoking, medications, etc., etc., have an effect on the embryo. If you start out with basic material and change the developing fetal environment, what would be the result? In all probability, not even an exact look-alike, since absolutely duplicating in a vat the exact situation *in vitro* would be astronomically unlikely.

Also, like your idea about Han's parentage--come on, some of you authors--that's a good idea.

Melanie Rawn: I had a dichotomy of feeling about the SW Con in Los Angeles, but walking into an elevator and coming nose to nose with Chewbacca (Peter Mayhew) without his suit is overwhelming. That man is big!

Tim Blaes: Well, as Ye Ed says, being ripped off--most fans have been at one time or another. Not being a completely civilized person, I have a tendency to go after the culprits with an ax, and I

have a very long memory when it comes to such things.

Cheree: I agree wholeheartedly with your words to Anonymous. Such a pity that the difference between the real world and fantasy should become so blurred.

Pam LaVasseur: Who knows who Leia's mother is; as for that matter, maybe all Princess from Alderaan were adopted just to get new blood in the Royalty. Leia apparently knew she was adopted or at least had another mother, as she said she remembered her.

Barb Brayton: The Vader/Luke situation is always somewhat ambiguous. In only one instance is there a reference to Luke killing Vader, and then Luke says it. At all other times, the reference is made to Luke facing Vader.

Carolyn Golledge: I am still jealous about your meeting all those wonderful people at MediaWest--sigh--well, at least, I got a chance to chat with you.

Sharon Saye: The Lucas Outline for SW is fascinating, therefore, authors are always redoing them. But remember Yoda's "Always in motion is the future." What other alternatives might have occurred if Han had not made it through the blast doors? Vader had managed to pick Luke off the weather vane. Jabba had defrosted Han (no, he didn't kill him. Not after paying such a big bounty.). Using Yoda's words, one could in reality build many alternatives.

Maggie Nowakowska: Hi--Well, come and stay in Santa Barbara on your way to LA--supposedly smog-free--quick to Disneyland--spend the day and quick trip back to Santa Barbara. Simple!

Yeah. Just what did surprise Old Mossback? If Vader did not know about Luke, how did he find out?

Loved your labels--but think you should add another special one to designate Carolyn Golledge's and Pat D'Orazio's stories. Title: "Tossing Han off Cliffs."

B. J. Evans: Han made such lovely bait. It worked once, why not again? So, Boba Fett in Jabba's court.

Bev Clark: Many are approaching or are middle aged...um...interesting, very interesting. When does one reach that point?

Mickey Malkin: Indoctrinating the orphans would still be less expensive than brainwashing. Brainwashing would almost have to be done on an individual basis in order to hold. Adults are simply not as susceptible to mind manipulation as is sometimes suspected, and the possibility of a mind becoming unwashed at a critical moment would be too dangerous. So, I still opt for educating the orphans.

Now, as for the graphic treatment of Han in the SHOWCASE zines...well, some don't like slash, some don't like brutality. I can deal with either, as long as the story is well done; and, since I could enjoy either, I guess you could say I get a kick out of it.

Barbara Gardner: What is this HIBERNATION SICKNESS thing? And are you the one responsible for sending the earthshaker when I was in the john? That was not very nice!

Mary Urhausen: I understand your trouble about addresses. I try for both envelope and letter and an occasional phone number is a help. Also understand about extra postage and reasonable length of time for an answer, but what has me grinding my teeth is when I send a request for info, or updating including a SASE, and never get an answer. Three or four words even on the same letter would be welcome. Otherwise, I am left wondering, did the let-

ter get through? Did the recipient die? Please, just "been sick," "family problems," "printer late"--just anything, please!

Sandi Jones: Feedback--how can I give you feedback when only the author's name is listed? The round robin to editor, back to author to find out if it is okay to give out the info, and then if you are lucky, you finally get it. Also, on some LoCs, only names are given--feedback is not so easy.

Catherine Churko: Hey! A new almost Zine Fan. Only been doing it 3-1/2 years for friends. Well, welcome; now some of us almost New people can get together and grouse about everything we have missed. You, of course, have the advantage since you live in an area where there are other zine fans; not so this person. Nevertheless, hey! Isn't it fun?

Pat Easley: Now, Pat, I did say what Ben and Yoda did was not nice. Also, I said they seemed to have no choice. If they had told Luke, would he have done up against Vader? Especially a very young man who had idolized his father. That would have been taking a chance on tossing Luke right into his father's lap and two Dark Lords they did not need. They had to take the gamble that Luke would never find out, or if he did, he would be able to handle it. Like I said, not nice but understandable. Now, as for zine reviews! A really great idea and, like you, I know what I like so I am mentioning a couple of great older stories. If you have not read them, find a copy of MOS EISLEY TRIBUNE #2 and read Ellen Blair's "Metamorpheus". It'll give you the shivers. And, if you like new characters, read Chris Noel's "A House in Flames" in LEGION OF LIGHT #2. These are both great stories.

Well, I did finally finish this thing--so until next time. Peace in the Force to all.

ECCENTRIC PEOPLE

Dr. Mary Urhausen
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Racine, WI 53402

October 17, 1987

It was such a thrill to receive a SOUTHERN ENCLAVE again!! The Fan Q was much deserved; congratulations! (We Fan Q recipients have to stick together, after all!) It was a lot of fun to see the photos from MediaWest*Con; I wish there was some way all of SE's readers could come to this con--it is that great. Of course, we might kind of over-run the Hilton... Also enjoyed Sandi's humorous article about her experiences. She seems to have discovered the mysterious MediaWest*Con Time Warp; once you step into the con, "real time" stands still, and the entire weekend just seems to fly by. Here's looking forward to another great MWC in 1988!

I also loved the second on Katy; what a sweetie! I guess this excuses you from coming to MediaWest, Cheree! (Just don't get the idea to do this every year!)

My main comments this issue concern this article I just ripped out of my current (Sept.-Oct. issue of FILM COMMENT. Kind of sobering, eh? I think it's extremely interesting, not from the standpoint

of information about George Lucas, or the future of the STAR WARS films, or even the future of SW fandom, but from the standpoint of a non-SW fan's perception of SW fans. We don't come off looking too good, do we? In fact, this guy makes us sound like a bunch of nuts! Of course, we all know there are a lot of...eccentric people in fandom, SW and other; but I don't think most of us like to consider ourselves crazy, or out of touch with reality. Personally, I like to consider myself someone with a fairly...loose grip on reality! But a grip, nonetheless! Just as television and newspaper reporters who converge on WorldCons always pick the absolutely weirdest fans to interview and photograph (the almost classical Vulcan ears with the Dr. Who scarf, or the 250 lb. woman in the chain mail bikini), this author seems to have slid headlong into a wall of rather bizarre SW fans, and--perhaps feeling a mild concussion coming on--never probed any further... Too bad; I think there were some extremely bright, realistic, and articulate SW fans at that convention (I know several people who went who fill that bill nicely), and he never met or talked to them. An article like this makes one understand why poor George Lucas usually feels like running screaming from SW fans.

Just a few quick comments: Thanks again to everyone who voted for THE WOOKIEE COMMODORE 3 for Best SW Zine in this year's Fan Q. We are very proud of our zine, and are so happy to find that others appreciate our effort. The real credit goes to our contributors; the zine is theirs, as well, and so is this Fan Q!

Maggie Nowakowska: Hey, done anything butt-headed lately?? (Or was the "impenetrable Spock" your last and finest effort??) I love your logos for fan fiction! Especially the slash and hurt/comfort ones.

And for everyone who has been wondering what kind of doctor I am: a damned good one! ((Ed: I'll spill the beans--Mary is a veterinarian.))

See y'all next time!

SHAKE, RATTLE AND ROLL

Melanie Rawn
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South Pasadena, CA 91030

October 5, 1987

Yes, I felt it--"them", actually. It's 12:10 on Sunday night/Monday morning and even as I write this we had another aftershock.

I've lived in Southern California all my life and never been 4 miles from the epicenter of an earthquake before. The Thursday morning wake-up call at 7:42 felt as if a giant hand had picked up the apartment building and shaken it like a child's toy box. To put it another way, imagine the Star Tours ride without the seat belt--standing up (after I got knocked out of bed and scrambled up off the floor, that is).

During the initial shake, my refrigerator and most of the other furniture waltzed at least a half-

foot, nearly everything came down off the walls, the computer monitor came with 1-1/2 inches of total disaster, and there was broken china and glass everywhere. The earth has been hiccupping ever since, with a real goodie Sunday morning at 3:59 a.m. A local store is holding an earthquake sale: 6.1% off in honor of the magnitude of the original tremblor. Yahoo. Only in L.A.

The king and queen of Spain were here for the first one and somebody suggested that we ought to ask them if it's too late to give California back.

Nahhh...I love this place and I'd never live anywhere else (although, for a while there, even Texas was looking pretty good--sorry, Jenni!). ((Ed: Hey, I'm a native Texan and I resemble that remark!)) The rest of the country gets hurricanes, tornados, torrential rain, minus 7000 windchill, and/or 96 feet of snow every year. So I get tossed out of bed and have to go stand in a doorway once every 15 or so years. Big deal.

(This is called Classic Southern California Denial Syndrome. I listen to Mozart and try to think of other things...)

Anyway, your infant is adorable. Of course, we want updates and pictures. Don't be silly.

The blurb about mine own infants on p. 13 was lovely, and thank you much. But wherever it came from got the titles wrong--not that the real titles are all that much better. I'm seriously awful at thinking up names for things. They're tentatively called "Dragonlord", "Dragon Prince" and "Dragon-son." Catchy, huh? I hope the editor comes up with something better. Haven't heard from her in a while, but at least she hasn't asked for the money back.

Yet.

Pam LaVasseur: Technically, the official title is HRH The Duchess of York because Andrew was given a separate title on the day of the marriage (cf Princess Michael of Kent, wife of the present duke's younger brother, who has no title of his own). Sarah Ferguson became an HRH when she married an HRH, but bestowing that distinction is at the discretion of the sovereign. The Duchess of Windsor was never granted the HRH. The Lady Diana Spencer, who had her own courtesy title before her marriage, became (are you ready?) HRH The Princess of Wales, Countess of Chester, Duchess of Cornwall and Rothesay, Countess of Carrick, and Baroness of Renfrew, according to the order of Charles' titles. But her own name won't enter into it until and unless she becomes Her Majesty Queen Diana. "Unless" because, if Charles never becomes king, then as his widow, she will be HRH The Dowager Princess of Wales, not HM The Queen Mother because she will never have been a queen.

As far as the kidlets are concerned, the heir's wife will be Princess William of Wales until daddy becomes king, when he'll probably get Prince of Wales all to himself--but that's another discretion-of-the-sovereign, as is Prince Consort. Little brother's bride will be Princess Henry of Wales, unless daddy gives him one of the royal dukedoms (Kent, Clarence, Gloucester, Sussex, and Cambridge are some others).

Anyway, the York title takes precedence because it's a royal dukedom (cf all Victoria's scandalous uncles). Actually, QEII's kids are princely because Philip is himself a Prince of the United Kingdom. It has nothing to do with the mother at all. Princess Anne's children are commoners because she married a commoner; the only reason Princess Margaret's have titles is because QEII made Anthony Armstrong-

Jones an earl. (Take a walk through Debrett's or Burke's sometime. It's fascinating!)

So, by strict rules of British nobility, Leia's formal title is Her Royal Highness The Princess Leia of Alderaan. But, according to these rules, her father (or adoptive father) would have to be a prince himself. She does not pass the title on to her children; neither does Han become a prince when he marries her. If, however, Anakin was a prince, his title carries through Luke and his children. Which is unfair and sexist, so I changed the rules and gave everyone a royal title. More fun that way!

And more than you ever wanted to know, right? If you're wondering where all that came from, not only am I a rabid Royal Family junkie, but I had to figure suchlike out for a Regency I did a few years back.

Pat Easley: Thank you very much, but--a grocery list???

So, what does everybody think of the new TREK? There's been just the pilot as of this writing, but though I had a few twinges of "Umm, haven't I seen this plot before?" and I miss having a Vulcan around the house, I enjoyed it. But it's kind of a shock to see a Klingon on the bridge of the Big E!

((Ed: My 2¢ worth--I think it's kind of dull, actually. I miss Kirk's bravado-style of leadership. Picard's too much of a wimp. I don't think it's logical (pardon me) to have children/families on board a military vessel and I don't like Wesley or any other super-genius-type snot-nosed kid. I do like Data, the android, Tasha Yar, and Ryker. I think I could get to like Worf, the Klingon (if he were ever given anything to do), the lady counsellor (can't think of her name) and even Georgi. I think there are a lot of problems to be worked out with the show. All in all, it does seem like STAR TREK 28: THE SEARCH FOR A NEW PLOT. I console myself with the thought that it may get better. After all, I wasn't too enamored of the original ST back in 1966 until about mid-way through the first season. But wasn't that cameo by the 137-year-old Admiral McCoy priceless?!))

By the way, I'm writing this at 12 at night because I can't sleep. Guess why.

CRIME VICTIM

Chris Callahan
6101 Seminole St.
Berwyn Heights, MD 20740

October 25, 1987

First, congratulations, mother! Katy looks like a living doll.

Second, congratulations, editor! SE#16 was the first news I got of the Fan Q's and I'm very pleased to see you get the recognition you so richly deserve. You've been doing a damn good job, lady! And I hope you can manage to keep it up, even if you now find you have to cut back the schedule a bit. I'll understand if you do, and I'm sure everyone else will, too.

Third, I'm VERY glad to hear about the aftermath of the mugging. As an armed robbery victim myself

(I did have to testify and, though it wasn't fun, it gave me a great deal of satisfaction), I understand your feelings, especially the wariness. That feeling of total helplessness at the time and the lasting psychological damage, of whatever degree, are horrible. In my case, the guy had a string of charges against him already and mine, plus a couple of related ones, put him in jail for at least 30 years. Unlike you, I wasn't physically touched and he took only money, not my whole purse. We both got off lucky, I'd say. And at least as far as the two are concerned, we can breathe a little easier. Warning to other readers: yes, it can happen to you. If it does, GO TO THE POLICE IMMEDIATELY! In my case, using a pay phone on a fairly busy corner rather than going the extra block to my office building, where I would have felt safer making the call, made the difference between the robber getting released after being picked up for another reason and being held--he was still available for me to make positive identification because I called about three minutes earlier than I might have. And, if testifying at trial becomes necessary, don't chicken out--you could help make the difference between a robber going free and his going to jail. Above all, if you're held up by a robber with a weapon, GIVE HIM THE MONEY! Don't fight for property--it's not worth getting killed. A snatcher might be a different case, but I'd agree with what the police say--yell, scream "Thief", call the cops, but don't risk your life or health for a purse or wallet. (A rapist is another case entirely, depending on circumstances, but you're probably more likely to be attacked by a thief, at least on the street.) (My stomach still churns thinking about the whole incident and the robbery was in May, 1986, the trial a year--almost to the day--later; the robber himself was largely responsible for the delay.) And don't be surprised if you find yourself getting upset and even angry at comic strips treating holdups, especially with guns, as humorous. Amazing what people find funny, if the topic has no personal relevance.

Enough on that topic!

The photos: "Mon Mothma" on p. 6 is Maggie Nowakowska; Angela-Marie's companion (based on my meeting her once and having a photo) I'd say is June Edwards.

On to the letters:

Sally Syrjala: I like your summary of the reasons SW has such wide and enduring appeal, at least for the letter-writing fans. As to why the fandom seems to be less strong than it had been, you may be right about the "me generation" element, at least to some extent. But I think there's more to it than that. The core of SW fandom, those who locked into SW at or near the beginning, are getting older, gaining more personal responsibilities in the real world we all live in; and while involvement in the fandom started at a high level of intensity, there's only so long such intensity can be maintained in a single area. "Burnout" is not just a "mundane" phenomenon. But taking a less intense part in fandom doesn't necessarily mean that a person has lost the capacity to reach out to others, to see the human race and the world as interrelated, to grow personally. It may simply mean that some people are finding other outlets. Or they might feel that as far as they are concerned, the discussion of various aspects of SW, including analogies with the real world, have gone as far as possible and it's no longer interesting to take part--I'm willing to bet that some of those who seem to have dropped out are maintaining at least tenuous ties with SW fan-

dom, reading the zines even if they don't participate with LoCs or other contributions. But even if they've left completely, that doesn't necessarily mean they've joined the Reagan "revolution" completely or even in part. Expressions of ideas and feelings may change even if the ideas and feelings themselves don't. I can't speak of fanfic ideas because I haven't read much fanfic of any sort in the last year or so (several fanzines are still sitting in my "to be read" pile) simply because I have so many other things to read, and do. SE is the only fan publication I read regularly (SW fan, that is), and that because I find the ideas and exchanges so fascinating, whether I have time to comment or not.

Ming Wathne: I'm glad to hear that you've had such a positive experience with your late entry into SW fandom. Even at this late date, I can appreciate your comment about the difficulty of getting to be a SW fan in the first place--I lucked out years ago when I met a couple of people at a science fiction con who were planning a special SW issue of the Trek zine and they put me onto a few names and addresses. I'd known for years that Trek zine fandom existed, but had no idea (in the summer of 1978) that there were SW zine fan also. Not being a Trek fan of any sort, I just wasn't hooked into the network at that point. (Of course, I was also lucky in that I was into sf cons already, otherwise I never would have run into the editors--actually I'd met them through costuming at an earlier con, and it was at the summer con they mentioned their planned project). And I second your thanks to Maggie and Co. for setting up the zine library--they're providing a real service to fans who came in late. Thanks for the report on the SW con in LA. I'd been rather regretting that I couldn't go, but after reading your comments, I'm just as glad I didn't go, after all. I've heard and read similar comments on other "professional" cons for Trek and Dr. Who. The basic problem is that the fans put on cons for the love of the subject, as a big meeting/party for a lot of friends to get together for a good time, and the pros are in it strictly for the money, with no understanding at all of fandom of any sort. "Two different worlds we live in..."

Pam LaVasseur: Sarah is Duchess of YORK, not Kent; Duke of York is traditionally the title of the second son of the English monarch (or, in the case of George V, the "consolation" title after he gave up the crown). ((Ed: Don't you mean the Duke of Windsor, the title given to Edward VIII, after his abdication in 1936? George V was King of England from 1910 (from the death of his father, Edward VII) until his death in 1936. He was succeeded by his eldest son, the Prince of Wales, who reigned briefly as Edward VIII, then gave up the throne in favor of his younger brother, the Duke of York, who came to the throne as George VI and was Elizabeth's father.)) In Leia's case, it was probably a different system--after all, this is another galaxy, with its own political/philosophical/social systems. Alternatively, Bail Organa might have been a prince in his own right but with the political position (either in Alderaan's own or in the Empire) of viceroy--maybe "viceroy" was their equivalent of prince regent on Alderaan--in which case Leia's title would have derived from her status as his daughter by adoption (however carefully the adoption itself was covered up and Leia passed off as his blood kin). Of course, if "Lord of the Sith" was a title Anakin held aside from his identity as Vader, that makes

things even more interesting and complicated... Great story idea. Personally, until I see a story that makes sense of the latter, I'll assume either the totally different system (and not worry about details just now) or else that Bail was a prince in his right and had the power to name his daughter princess legally.

Maggie Nowakowska: Your theory about Ben and Yoda's differing views of Luke based on their relationships with Anakin makes sense in the film context as well as psychologically. I can see Mon Mothma as a mentor to Leia--could be she and Bail were close allies (given his apparent high position as hinted at in ANH) and MM was in charge of Leia's senatorial training. She certainly seems like a good role model for Leia, from what little we've seen of her. Re your comments on power and the Dark Side--it's possible that many people respond to power/give in to it (or the temptation of it) because giving in is easier than resisting or thinking of alternatives. Or they may be afraid to either resist or try for an alternative. Remaining passive and making choices takes a great deal of self control, while giving in to power/the temptation of it doesn't take much, if any. This is leaving aside entirely the question of the individual's ethical system and the strength of that. Thank you for your statement that Yoda's implication is "one must always be free to choose by virtue of that passivity." I've always had a bit of a problem with the insistence on passivity in dealing with the Force, and your statement crystallized what I'd been groping toward as a formulation. Passivity does not mean spinelessness and refusal to make decisions; maybe it could be called "calmness", which is necessary for making rational decisions of any kind. As for your thinking that the SW Jedi philosophy (am I interpreting correctly?) requiring metaphysics may just reflect your own leanings--I have no particular spiritual leanings in any direction, and I've always thought there had to be some element of metaphysics involved, even if that didn't show in my stories. Whether the various characters believed this or not, the idea was definitely there, even if only as suggestion. What's possible in the Jedi universe may be interpreted in different ways by people with different outlooks, but metaphysics is probably the best human concept to describe what little Lucas gave us to work with. Finally, I LOVE your emblems. I'd really like to see them taken up, either in ads or in reviews; of course, in many cases, several would be needed. I can see a review with 1-4 of any given symbol indicating emphasis on various aspects...(snicker) (I never said I was nice!)

B. J. Evans: On Vader and Luke, I assumed after TESB that Vader intended to use Luke only as long as necessary (or even use the promise just to get Luke within striking distance!) and would get rid of him as soon as his usefulness was over. As for Luke refusing to kill Vader: if there was any chance of turning him, then killing Vader would have had adverse effects on Luke, not to mention throwing off the overall balance of Light and Dark with the probability of shifting fatally to the Dark Side. On triggering Force ability, I tend to agree. There's also Leia's apparent "triggering" near the end of TESB--her response to Luke and guiding of Lando to the right spot for rescue was of a totally different quality from the previous uses of the Force to influence someone.

Bev Clark: "Fen" has been around for many years as a plural form of "fan", in sf fandom; "fiksong", while definitely filling a need, started as a typo

in a fanzine and was immediately adopted as a useful and typically fannish term. As for "mundane", it's often used as a derogatory term (any "in group," especially one that feels it's looked down on, has some way of distinguishing "us" and "them", if only as a defense mechanism), but it's also a very convenient non-derogatory shorthand for non-fans. I use it both ways; I hope my tone indicates clearly which meaning I'm applying; more often than not I use it simply as shorthand, when speaking with fans. Actually, I met the term first in SCA (Society for Creative Anachronism), which I joined at the same time as the local sf club, and in the SCA context it made a lot of sense, maybe more than the sf context. On the other hand, the non-fannish side of life is pretty mundane (read ordinary, run-of-the-mill) compared with fandom, either sf or SW.

Catherine Churko: Welcome to SW fandom and sf fandom. Last year's Philcon was fun, wasn't it? Try Lunacon in your area next spring, and Balticon and Disclave down a bit south, too (Easter and Memorial Day weekends, Baltimore and Washington, DC --well, actually New Carrollton, MD, these days, since the DC hotels are too damned expensive for anything short of a WorldCon. By the way, there's a bid on for Discon III in 1992; if interested, write to me at the above address; I'm a member of the bid corporation.) Re your story, please don't think that just because others used ideas that didn't occur to you, that yours is "simple-minded"--if your idea fits the story and characters as you develop them, then your idea is perfectly reasonable. Don't be discouraged by other people's works --you're not other people, you're you with your own ideas. Work on those, keep ideas and stories (and characters) mutually consistent, and hang in there! You say later that Ben's fall was his not seeing Anakin's trend--OK, that fits with your idea of Anakin already heading to the Dark Side, with Ben's problem being that he's too proud to see the flaw in his student--consistency in the characters. On your early interest in sf/science with blankness on basics--yeah, that sounds familiar. To this day, I can enjoy a story with a scientific howler or two that I don't recognize because my scientific background is so spotty, with just about zilch in physics, for example. In fact, I've picked up a lot of scientific bits and pieces from sf written by working scientists--USUALLY, I can tell the difference between what's possible or likely from what's invented!). Like you, I read for ideas first, though characterization and quality of writing have become increasingly important over the years; since my relatively brief stint as a zine editor, I've had strong urges to grab a red pencil while reading a professionally published book to make suggestions on sentence structure, paragraphing, descriptions, credibility of action, etc. None of my literature classes in college ever gave me that! As for your recommendations, I'd add Greg Bear's BLOOD MUSIC, and C. J. Cherryh's Chanur books. Agree on Varley, definitely. Cherryh can truly get the reader into her alien culture and characters--you really DO see the human Tully as an alien as you read, you're so wrapped up in the hani characters and their way of thinking. In a somewhat more depressing vein, if you want alienation try IN THE FIELD OF FIRE, edited by Jeanne Van Buren Dann and Jack Dann, sf based on the Vietnam War. This book actually got the New York Times Book Review to treat sf as serious literature, folks! THAT is no small accomplishment!! On the subject of Mary Sues--I'd assume that that writer wants you to empathize/identify with the MS,

unless she's doing a satire. The problem with MSS is that far too often the MS is flat, because the author is too wrapped up in the character--and too personally identified with her, consciously or not --to make her separate, a real person in her own right.

Hmm, this was going to be a bit shorter. Sigh. Fly free...

FAREWELL TO SE

Vonnie Fleming
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Australia 3148

As this may well be the last LoC from me for quite a while, I'd like to thank everyone concerned with SE--for printing/reading/replying to my rambolling, drivelling LoCs. I am moving (yet again!), have just started a new job and, as a result, I won't even have time to have a nervous breakdown (tho the idea seems appealing at times!), much less write.

Firstly, congratulations to Cheree and Randy on the birth of Katy. She is absolutely gorgeous! You seem to have had a rough time, not just with the labor, but the mugging incident. (I hope you're over the worst of both, by now.) In regard to the latter, I'm glad they got the mongrel. Pity Darth or Dirty Harry wasn't there--they could have "made his day"! I don't blame you for being outraged!

Carol Peters, Judith Tyler, Barb Gardner, Carole Regine, and Lynda Vandiver -- My sympathy to you all. May the Force comfort you in your loss.

Sandi Jones: Sorry to hear you're to stop publishing "ACCOF". On a more cheerful note, I'm glad I didn't confuse you--I'm so confused at present, I'm having difficulty remembering what I wrote last!

Ming Wathne: So, you aided and abetted the kidnapping of a Sithlord, eh? Consider yourself lucky that I'm too busy to think of hiring a bounty hunter, ha! Thanks for your comments re Vader, Ben and Yoda, etc.

Me ol' mate Carolyn G.--So now you've met/spoken to every fan (almost) in the States. How does it feel to be a celebrity? And mucho thanks for your kind words. Oh, before anyone accuses you of heresy (re MOSQUITO COAST), remember you had the occasion to meet me three times in August when I graced New South Wales with my presence--blame my corrupt influence! As you know, when it comes to "heresy", few can surpass yours truly! Ha ha!

To "Anonymous", Paterson, NJ: In my opinion, people who write anonymous letters are cowards. Maybe I'm being too harsh here, but who are you to say who is or isn't a "true fan"? You've just convinced me to go and see SPACEBALLS at first opportunity! Sorry, but this is the perverse reaction your anonymity has inspired. I'd have had more respect if you'd had the courage to sign your name.

To all those who responded to my comments from my previous letter -- Sorry I can't answer you all personally, and a big thanks for showing your interest. Hope you understand that I'm pressed for time due to circumstances beyond control!

Last but not least, I've noticed several new

names in SE#16. Welcome and I hope you enjoy participating as much as I have. You've done a great job, Cheree. Long may it continue.

So, until time permits once more, peace and may the Force--Lightside and Dark--be with you all... always.

((Ed: Thanks for being with us, Vonnie! The door's open anytime. Feel free to jump back in whenever you want!))

BOOK REPORTS

Matthew Whitney
1003 Allen Street
Springfield, MA 01118

October 31, 1987

Hearty congratulations to the proud parents and thank you, Cheree, for sharing your joy with us.

I am still trying to squeeze time for fannish pursuits into a mere 24 hours day. Even reading SE#16 had to get put on the back burner until I had time to turn serious attention to it, and now I'm at the deadline. Due to that, apologies to those who raised issues I'd like to comment on, but simply don't have time to put my thoughts together in an intelligent manner.

I've read two SW-related books lately. First was ILM: THE ART OF SPECIAL EFFECTS. Anyone who has seen it knows how beautifully it is illustrated, with photos and art from all the films ILM has worked on. For that reason alone, it is worth getting. Upon having read it, though, the writing style left something to be desired. Most of it is biographical info on the technicians. That part is very interesting, but I felt there should have been more on the actual day-in/day-out of producing the effects. Following the work of ILM in that manner would have involved me more in the book. As is, it is a great tribute to the artists and their work, but it could have been so much more.

The second book is Carrie Fisher's novel POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE, which has nothing but the author as a SW connection. I highly recommend it. Portions are down-right frightening when you recall that she drew a lot of it from personal experience. How anyone can live through the nightmare life-style of a drug world, I don't know. As I've said before, I rarely read anything outside of SF or non-fiction, but this being Carrie's book, I had to read POSTCARDS. Am I ever glad I did. I try to follow our SW heroes' creators' other ventures and, when it brings me to realms outside the SW universe that are rich and intriguing in their own right, so much the better.

Re SPACEBALLS and the anonymous letter. Thank you for printing it, Cheree. Your editorial comments were right on target and there is little I can add. I doubt many will share the writer's opinions. Personally, the film came across as simply as very fun film. Not of the calibre of Brooks' best (YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN being my fave), but wholly enjoyable--especially for sf fans who could get the jokes more easily than non-fans. What surprised me about Anonymous' letter was how someone who considers themselves a fan of a series of films that are so rich in humor has such a limited sense of humor.

To our anonymous LoCer, please rethink your position. Don't take the film as an insult. Rather, give yourself a chance to laugh and enjoy the film. In a way, you may find you are enjoying the SW films (and all those other sf films parodied) in a different light.

On a serious note, to all my long distance friends in SE who've lost a loved one recently, please accept my sympathies along with those who've already offered them. One of my best friends for about 10 years now lost his mother this past summer. She was a wonderful lady who was more than a friend's parent I knew by acquaintance, but a friend in her own right. All of these beautiful people will be sorely missed.

Barbara Gardner: I hope I didn't overburden your reading schedule too much, especially considering the DERYNI books include nine novels plus short stories. I am rereading them now and am enjoying them more than the first time.

On the first trilogy (we're still waiting, George), Barbara Brayton brought out some good thoughts. We do know, more or less, the big picture of the Fall of the Jedi and the Old Republic (they fell!). There are a great many gaps new films could fill. Also, history distorts with time. We could learn a different point of view of the happenings of that generation than the accepted story (promoted by the Emperor to legitimize his coup) that has come down to Luke's time.

George may feel he's painted himself into a corner by beginning with the fourth film in his original six film outline, for prequels have a bad reputation. INDY II suffered (only slightly) from "prequelitis", but, as one example, Kurtz' CAMBER series actually surpassed her earlier-written DERYNI books.

Michelle Malkin: Your letter has provoked a few opinions on issues raised. On "get" stories, you definitely have a valid argument. Fortunately, I have never read a story that was so graphic that it repulsed me or seemed as if the author had been getting some perverse kick out of it. There's no way I'd stay with a story that did come across as too "sick", and you can take that to the bank. I've a pretty tough skin and am not squeamish about violence, but there is a BIG difference between a story that has violence for a specific, justifiable, useful reason, and one that is sadistic or perverse.

On "/" stories, I want to comment, but I don't want to paint myself out as a bigoted, closed-minded person, either. My big complaint with "/" stories, be they K/S or H/L or whatever, is that the authors, in my opinion, are denying one aspect of a character and replacing it with one that is contrary. Lucas never came out and said that Luke and Han are straight, heterosexuals, and even if he did, people can change (especially if an author wants them to). They do project an image that they are straight, though. Assuming so, why deny that "fact"? To do so would be equivalent to writing a non-Force-user as a full-fledged Jedi. (My view of the Han-as-Jedi idea has been well established, both here and in SCOUNDREL.) Should a deeply religious person be written as an atheist? A political liberal as a conservative? An environmentalist as a resource-abuser? I say no. It is a denial of part of the character, a substantial part that makes the character what he/she is. If you're an author who wants to show a strong, intense bond between two males, you don't have to have them in the sack together to do it. (I suspect much "/" fiction is written by women as an easy way to fantacize about two of their

male heroes in a sexual encounter, without splitting them up and adding female partners.)

On the topic of zines and such, I am very grateful to the editors who not only printed stories of mine, but gave me a free contributor's copy to boot. Only in America! To demand a free copy of an editor would be presumptuous, especially for only a short contribution. A pal of mine was asked by her ed for an additional contribution, on top of the short vignette she'd already accepted, in return for a free copy. That was very fair, she felt, and she did send in another piece. Other editors may want to try a similar policy.

On waiting for a response from a zine ed about whether you've been accepted, please let me add an embarrassing story. I'd not heard from an ed for what seemed like a long time (over a month and a half, as I recall), so I assumed she'd forgotten about me and I sent the piece out to another editor. Just after that the first ed contacted me and said she was willing to accept the piece. If only I'd waited or written to her first, waited a week for a last chance reply, then had sought another editor. Needless to say, I felt I had egg all over my face and apologized to the first ed about the mix-up and for wasting her time. So, please don't be a dummy like me--if an editor is overdue (at least a month), drop them a 22¢ note that you've been waiting and, if you don't hear by such and such a date (remember it takes 3-4 days for first class mail to cross country--each way), you'll offer the story to another editor. Give the ed time, but, if all else fails, it's the squeaky wheel that gets the oil.

Sandi Jones: You're right that Vader probably never realized how much of a pawn, a tool, he was to Palpatine until the end. The image I think really crystallizes this is how Vader shrinks behind Palpatine as Luke is being zapped. Here Luke has just refused to kill Vader, but Palpatine expects him to stand by like the faithful servant as he kills his only son.

I was saddened to hear of Richard Marquand's death and surprised it got such little mention by the press. My friends heard about it on the radio, but we couldn't confirm this until I received word from an LA-based pen pal who said the LA TIMES mentioned it. ROTJ was as nearly perfect a film as is possible, and I enjoyed his other films, such as EYE OF THE NEEDLE, UNTIL SEPTEMBER and BIG HENRY AND THE POLKA DOT KID (which I accidentally caught on an afternoon special-type showing, unfortunately, during the pre-VCR days).

Well, there's no way this will reach you till after the deadline, Cheree, but I hope you can print it anyway. Follow the Force...



Lisa Thomas
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North Charleston, SC 29418

October 30, 1987

I just realized that the November 1st deadline has nearly arrived and I haven't even started to LoC SE#16! Oh, well, some things never change...

First of all, congrats on your new daughter (she's adorable!) and on the Fan Q Award, Cheree! I know that you modestly say that it's all of us who won the award, but it is you who puts it all together and you've never let us down with the zine (except for maybe Barbara Gardner who is still anxiously awaiting a Vader illo by one of her LoCs...) Congrats also to Mary Urhausen and Samia Martz for WC#3's award. It's much deserved!

There was so much reading material in the last issue that I'll never have time to throw in my two cents' worth on everything (I hear those sighs of relief out there!), but I surely cannot ignore the LoC from "Anonymous."

Let me first say that I do know who wrote this LoC and, though I'm certainly not defending this person's view of SPACEBALLS, I must tell you that, although this person does take the saga more seriously than most others do, it's not really out of loneliness. If you knew this person, you'd understand. I could give you a name, but it probably would not be familiar to the majority of you, so there's no point in it.

I want to respond to the letter, though, as objectively as I can, for this person to hopefully see and read. I really don't know where to begin. How about, I disagree with every word of the LoC. I consider myself to be a real, true SW fan. Even though I've seen each movie over 100 times, I still watch them every month or so. I am involved in fandom, though not always as actively as I'd like to be. In the name of fandom, Barbara and I have been putting up with each other for well over a year and a half, and together we've joined the fight to keep SW fandom alive and well by starting up our own SW newsletter. It takes sheer devotion to the SW saga to keep the newsletter going sometimes, but we do it. I am a true SW fan and I also loved SPACEBALLS!

I do not feel that the movie in any way is "a threat to the reputation and integrity and good image of the SW saga" to anyone who has seen the trilogy (and who hasn't?). How can you say that the movie portrays Leia as a "gunslinging whore"? I seem to remember a particular scene concerning a "virgin alert" and, as for the gunslinging, Leia did do quite a bit of that in the SW movies. As for Han, he never struck me as another Einstein anyway, but that's part of his charm. Lonestar couldn't make Han look stupid to anyone who knows and loves Han. Besides, Lonestar was not just Han, he was Luke too and I'm a Luke fan, but the portrayal did not offend me at all. It was FUNNY!

I could go on and on, but I don't need to. I'm sure the others will cover what I've missed. My first thought after reading the LoC was to not respond at all. I knew others would and it would seem redundant after 4 or 5 LoCs (and mine always ends up in the back due to deadlines), but I just couldn't keep my mouth shut. There IS a difference between making fun of and having fun with the SW saga to elicit a few laughs, and, in my case, hysteria to the point of pain.

Okay, enough said there.

I'm taking a film history course this semester, and my professor manages to mention at least once every week or so how the SW and SW genre films are dead. I don't know how much longer I can sit there silently when he says such things.

Sally Syrjala: "Once a fan, always a fan," huh? I like it!

Ming Wathne: It all sounds so familiar! My ignorance regarding zines at first was unbelievable! The first SW zine I ever heard of was WOOKIEE COM-MODE. I saw an ad for it in STARLOG in late '84, but all it gave was the name of the zine and an address to send a SASE to. I had no idea what a zine was, so I wrote to Mary Urhausen asking her to send me a copy of the zine in the SASE I'd enclosed. Imagine my surprise when she wrote back and I discovered what a zine was and, even more shocking, the price! Ha! But, luckily, I found someone shortly after that incident who patiently answered all my questions and even listed several SW zines for me to look into, including SE (yes, I'm talking about you, Mary Kever!).

Cheree must've known I'd ramble on this time, so she explained FAR REALMS SEX and FAR REALMS SUX for me already.

Mary Kever: We couldn't keep it a secret much longer, Mary. They were bound to find out it was you who brought me to SE sooner or later! I'm sure they'll forgive you eventually! Ha!

Blow-up party dolls? I'll save my comments on that idea for private correspondence (that darned rep of mine, y'know...).

Tim Blaes: I kid you not. I've seen the ad on TV for AMAZON WOMEN ON THE MOON, but I don't know when it's going to be released. For all I know, it's already been released. Charleston doesn't get all movies as soon as they're released. ((Ed: I've seen a poster for it and some stills, but I haven't seen it in Dallas, either.))

Speaking of movies, if anyone hasn't seen THE PRINCESS BRIDE yet, by all means, go see it! It's wonderful!

Barbara Gardner: You ARE menacing, Babs, I'll admit it! If these folks only knew the torture you put me through with your ATGT endings! Your good name (?) would be ruined...

I'd love to ramble on, but it's time to get this in the mail. (Don't feel alone, Sally Smith, I may have a longer LoC than your last one, but I'm just as hopelessly behind as you are!) Sorry this isn't typed, Cheree! Hope you can read my writing! ((Ed: Hey, listen, I worked for an attorney for three years whose handwriting looked like the EKG of a person in the last stages of a heart attack! Yours is no problem!))

It's Halloween now--hope everyone makes their ghoulish! (I know it's over by the time you read this, but it's too dangerous for me to get ahead of myself when I'm so far behind, so I'll stick with present tense!)

Remember--HIBERNATION SICKNESS is waiting to victimize YOU!

Barbara Gardner
617 Virginia Road
St. Mary's, PA 15857

Hi, everyone!

Sandi Jones: Re your article on MediaWest: People like you drive people like me nuts with your articles on what MWC is like and what fun it is, but people like me would rather be driven nuts by people like you than not have people like you tell us what it's like, so that we'll be determined to go if it kills us!! (Translation: Thanks!)

Thank you for wishing Lisa and I luck. HIBERNATION SICKNESS is still chugging along (and much improved compared to issue #1...). We're already coming up on our first double-issue--not intentionally, but simply because we have too much material for a 16-20 page issue. On the down side, we're learning very quickly about all the little things involved in being newsletter/minizine editors. Like money. It's amazing how the "business" calls and "business" letters' postage adds up! It's not easy when both editors are unemployed!

Lisa Thomas: Did you warn your parents about that hour-and-a-half "business" call before the bill came?

Early morning phone calls?! We mountain folk up north here don't consider 10:30 going on 11:00 AM to be "early"! And I didn't hang up on you, the operator did! Next time I get trapped in a phone booth with no change and a Corellian holding the door shut while levelling a blaster at my chest, I'll remember that your dad doesn't know my voice (or name, it would seem), and call person-to-person instead of collect!!

But, of course, this accusation comes from a person who thinks it's impossible to mow a lawn on a mountain because all mountains are supposed to be rocky and snow-covered...

And, while I'm at it, I wish to make it known that you Jedi are dishonorable delinquents! I paid the ransom to HIBERNATION SICKNESS. You have no right to continue holding my WOOKIEE COMMODORE hostage! Cruelty to zines!!

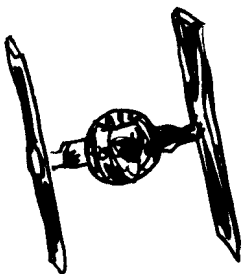
Tim Blaes: Regarding WWII heroes being blonde and blue-eyed: Maybe it's just coincidence or maybe not, but WWII is my favorite period of history.

B. J. Evans: I intend to get "Marginal Error" as soon as I've gotten the CATALYST! COLLECTED volumes, so that Lisa Thomas will stop torturing me with her quotes from "Seeds of Destruction."

Jenni: She doesn't quote the nicer scenes. I can't believe some of the things you do to Luke! Nearly severing his spine?! It's not nice to treat a Dark Lord like that...

Anonymous: After much consideration, I decided to reply to your letter, simply because I couldn't not reply. I know who you are, and I have to say my piece, even if it means that I won't hear from you again (which is already likely considering the letter you sent Lisa and I about that POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE ad in HIBERNATION SICKNESS).

SPACEBALLS was not intended to make fun of SW in a mean way. There is a difference between laughing at something and laughing with it. I think you have simply become too paranoid about people putting down SW. I'm aware of your opinions toward the Big Three (Mark, Carrie and Harrison), but does that condemnation now extend to George Lucas himself? After all, he consented to the making of SPACEBALLS. Do you claim that he's putting down SW? If so, what right do you have to say that? It's his universe to begin with, and if he wants to make a com-



edy about it, who are you to condemn him for that? Being a fan doesn't give you the right, just as being fans doesn't give the rest of us a right to demand the rest of the movies.

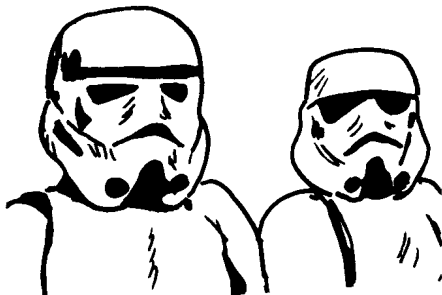
I think you need to realize that things such as SPACEBALLS, POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE, and Mark Hamill trying to escape the Luke Skywalker stereotype are not things that are going to kill SW. By now, only the true fans are left anyway, and if fandom dies, it is only because we let it. So-called mockeries and put-downs of SW are not going to affect the general public. Either they are already fans or they aren't. There aren't many (if any) borderlines left to be influenced by such publicity. If anything will hurt fandom, it will be your kind of fan--the true fanatic who treats the characters as if they are real, living people. Don't try to kid yourself that that's not what you're doing, Anonymous, because you are. And you need to stop yourself before you get in too deep.

I understand the criticism you've undergone being a fan. I went through it, too, alone, for seven years. I was a lone fan who never knew there was an organized fandom Out There Somewhere, and I put up with constant ridicule to the point that I wondered if I were the only living fan. But I didn't let it eat at me and make me paranoid. Other people are entitled to their own opinions. I still put up with a lot of criticism, mostly from my dad, so I understand your situation. But you've got to learn to stand up to it--don't let it get to you. Writing angry letters to newsletter editors because you don't approve of an article they printed, or putting down others because they don't agree with you and therefore are not "true" fans, is not the way to do it. Tackle the problem at the source. Your mother would probably be a good place to start. Talk to her. Try to explain everything to her, and, if she still won't listen, then don't push it. Try to see it from her point of view. Try to imagine how you would feel if you had a teenage daughter obsessed with something you found unacceptable, like vampires or something. Trying to see things from my dad's point of view may not have changed either of our opinions about my SW fandom, but it has saved us from a good number of all-out fights, and we get along better. You just have to keep an open mind, and, once in a while, turn the other cheek.

Enough said. I'm sure you'll hear this from everyone else, too.

Cheree: Has Katy enjoyed watching "V" and "V: THE FINAL BATTLE" with you as you record them for me? Do you cover her eyes everytime a Visitor loses his human skin? (I would! Think of the nightmares poor Katy would get! She doesn't know how to control them yet with the Force!) ((Ed: She didn't watch them at all...and neither did I! I set the VCRs up before bed and let them run all night! I just wasn't up to sitting through 10 hours of V!))

Down with Dishonorable Jedi!!



Catherine Churko
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Hi, gang! Hoo-boy, did my letter turn out to be l-o-n-g! My biggest short-coming in my ex-career as a graphic designer was at type-specing LONG passages of type. I couldn't do it then and, as you can see, I couldn't guess now how long my typing would translate into a finished WP columned piece. Now, I have a better idea.

I want to correct a few points in my letter that looked too arrogant to me when I saw the finished product. For instance, I would hopefully strive to make my Mary Sue or Leia a strong, loving, independent and intelligent woman.

I haven't done THAT many chases, escapes, and fight scenes in my illo-stories. They are pretty good, I'd say, except for the one where I can't realistically figure out how to get our heroes out of the situations they are in. That's because I'm not well versed enough in that kind of stuff. (Oh, well).

I didn't put in any flashbacks on Anakin's childhood in my prequel (in '84). I was having enough trouble as it was putting the words in after the illos! To have gotten into racking my brain for the psychological constructions would have short-circuited too many neurons. (It just looked like from my typing that I did, when Cheree transcribed it.)

On to current conversations at the SE convention #16:

Sally Syriala: Sounds like an interesting letterzine you're working on. I've always felt as I grew older that one of the beauties of SF is that, if you write the "right" way, you can write about almost anything. And by taking a person out of their current social/cultural context and placing the characters somewhere else, you have a very powerful device. (Loved your "emotional heat seal" analogy.) I think then you can introduce subjects to people in the story that they might not look at so readily otherwise. And, by conjuring up a powerful story, it insidiously (to the person's current way of thinking) offers a new POV. And it might stick somewhere in that person's subconsciousness, bounce around and possibly blossom at some point into that person's current outer reality. SW did that for me in terms of spirituality (which is not automatically synonymous with religion) and metaphysical matters in our current early living. I would concur with your comments on the various aspects that SW brings up.

I would say that I think there are a lot more people caring about other people and planetary matters than you think. It's just that the bad and cynical stuff gets automatically played up over the other stuff. Remember Mary U. talking-eliciting loving emotions from the characters WITHOUT having to hang them at death's jaws before they do, in a written story. When those emotions come, how many people in some way can't handle them? Or call and dismiss them as sentimental?

Ming, Matthew: I think that the Creation Cons put on here in NYC are OK, sometimes with some special moments. But the "amateur" cons (first fan cons I ever went to) PhilCon '86, LunaCon '87 and MWC 007, I found were in many ways better. More interesting items offered in the sales rooms (too many comics to the exclusion of other items at Creation) and the "amateur" cons have ART SHOWS! My stars! If the "amateurs" can manage to handle the

complexities of gathering in art, why not Creation? Yes, Ming, I think you are right about no bulletin boards but I think I might have seen a room layout at one (!) of those Creation Cons. Unfortunately, the cost of running amateur cons in NYC is prohibitive so...no fan cons anymore in NYC.

Matthew: I'd say that part of the philosophy of the Force is how all things flow and are bound together, even if we just tend to see more of the separateness. I was sad to see you refer to "third world" countries as "two bit" even if it is your right to express your desire not to hear references about them while pursuing your entertainment.

One long standing theme an SF friend of mine and I discuss is the celebration, exploration and acceptance in some SF stories of a- or non-technological cultures. How, many of these stories (without raising the culture to unrealistic paradise perfection) show that in the realms of relationships between the beings themselves and their planet, their artistic and spiritual constructs are as sophisticated and sometimes superior to our highly technological western world.

I get the impression from that comment that you hold them (third world countries) in a disdainful way. Would you have considered Kashyyyk a "two bit" planet? Or, if you can divorce yourself from the merchandising machinations of the Ewoks' creation (I groaned when I saw them the first time and after a few more showings I began to like them. And I've read some pretty neat zine stories where they appear), would you call the beings who were in tune enough with their surroundings that they were able to turn the landscape against the Imps and help defeat the Imps, a "two bit" planet? Think, for instance, of the engineering sophistication involved in their whole treehouse villages.

Melanie: Hi. Loved your description of Star Tours. My friend happened to be on a business trip only a week or two after it opened and, having wanted to go to Disneyland since she was a kid, got the extra thrill of going on "The Tour". While she had one quibble about it in visual terms, she loved it and wished it was longer! I thought I had heard somewhere they had it longer originally and then too many people got sickish so they shortened it. Well, I have several friends now in California, one in LA, so one of these days...

Ye Editor: Wow! They really told you that in 6th grade? How terrible! Part of me is incredulous and another part is hah! what did you expect (from them)? ((Ed: It's just that, in the early/mid-60's little girls did not grow up to be astronauts! They grew up to be housewives and mothers and, if they had to go into a profession, it was either as a nurse or a teacher. Viva La Revolution!))

Sharon: Ah! Now that I know you read SE, I can thank you personally/publicly for your wonderful overviews in THE WOOKIEE COMMODE of the "year in zines." For a neo like myself who found a WC#2 in March this year, I got a view on some of the somewhat older zines and more recent ones in WC#4. Unfortunately, I've been unable to buy/find a copy of WC#3 floating in the ether anywhere. They (the overviews) have been very helpful. (Of course, Mary, I'm buying the WC for all the offenses it gives me.)

I haven't gotten tired yet of repeats but then again I'm still trying to play catch up. I like that you account for the "one" repeat for the umpteenth time that will stop you dead in your tracks. Yes, I love to visit the SW A/U's the writers have/are evolving. Some of them are so finely done.

I liked your ruminations on the Jedi and Dark-side potential. I guess I evolved the assumption (without any or little other input) that when the Jedi were screening candidates that obvious Darkside potential was dealt with. But for the subtler problem of how they'd predict reaction in grief, rage, revenge, they might have come up with a very deep set of psychic probes to review the candidate's life up to then to see how they have reacted to incidents in their life. Even if events were on a smaller scale, that would give them clues as how the candidate would act in the future. So, I'd assume that most potential and I guess all obvious problems were caught beforehand. Before the training commenced. (There are some interesting zine stories and hints of Force-sensitives teaching themselves--self-training, usually involving Dark-side Force-sensitives.)

Now, other questions that arise as I do this off the top of my head are: I assumed from Kenobi's words that he picked and screened his students alone, having achieved enough skill to do so. Were there times when a "panel", say a group of the highest Jedi in an enclave, ruled on a potential student? What were the levels of skill needed before a Jedi assumed a teaching mode? Was a teaching mode required of all Jedi, or according to their skills learned and ability to teach? Was Obi-Wan the highest title under Yoda? (I've got it clear, don't I? Kenobi is not a Master like Yoda, but a skilled enough Jedi that is able also to teach?)

Luke being the "last" of the Jedi (unless George has got more surprises in that area tucked away) has no choice but to teach if he is going to restore the Jedi. I find it interesting in general, now that I think about it, in some few of the post Jedi stories how quickly it seems they make Luke very skilled at being a teacher/Jedi. Other stories allude to the long process Luke still has to go through to reach that state. It's like any "profession" raised to a higher set of stakes with the Force aspects kicking in. When a doctor, lawyer, police officer, etc., become their title, at the beginning they are still new at it. I'd like to see more stories on the processes Luke goes through to learn to be a Jedi teacher. I think he's got a lot to learn.

That then brings me back to your other matters. Perhaps Kenobi missed something about Anakin. He met him during the Clone Wars, right? Perhaps, with all that going on, many Jedi were killed and they were in more need than usual of new recruits. Maybe Kenobi thought he could handle and channel Anakin's anger. Or help him to release it. Oooh... has anyone written stories about Jedi students who didn't pass on to be full-fledged Jedi? Do they suffer psychically--half-trained? Are some who lean too much to the Dark dangerous?

I think then from all the screening that a fall to the Darkside was pretty rare and perhaps more easily reversible in the days before the Old Republic began to really unravel. I'm sure that all Jedi students had some amount of teetering near the edge. Once they became Jedi, though, no, I don't think they are immune...but very unlikely to fall. I think the extraordinary circumstances of the times Luke was born into and his extraordinary heritage made him much more vulnerable to the Darkside along with his anger. And the anger in Anakin and whatever other elements in his personality plus his life during the Clone Wars and the rise of Palpatine perhaps added up to a more volatile potential.

My goodness. All these questions. I thought,

perhaps, that I might have some things of same interest to say in my first letter last time, but this is the first time I've felt (having been delighted but almost overwhelmed with the range of discussion, questions and observations that have gone on in all the SE's that I scanned in a few days' time) I've been able to consciously go with a stream of questions and observations then more questions brought on--by someone else's discussion. And do it (I hope) with intelligence. Hey, thanks, Sharon, for catalyzing my braincells.

Maggie: Hi ya, enjoyed your labels muchly. I prefer at this time stories with the main characters as leads. I understand though your point about places to fit in the SW universe. That is why probably, when I do my stories, I sometimes conjure up other human cultures that reflect my own interests and POV's on everything from spirituality, architecture to work and play. I can fit "myself" in as "the culture" or as a set of or one character with certain skills or problems to solve as part of the story. I can have others, too, becoming a Mary Sue to Luke in one of these cultures. When I do a bunch of sentients who are not human/humanoid, you can be sure that at least some of their culture or individual skills, interests will reflect mine. That's how I fit in the SW universe. I write/illo.

I said Big Three+ last time but I should have said Big 4 because through all that new (to me) material, Chewie has been so rounded out for me... he's just so cool. (I never saw the SW Xmas Special so I never saw the Life Day stuff, etc.)

And I really have liked some of the comics where Threepio and R2 have gone through some tough times. There have also been 3 Lando stories in the comics that were really good (in various ways). So give me a well-written, interesting story about any of the main 7. I like it when 2 or 3 or them are involved with their relationships and as well as being involved with other people in the Alliance, Imps or planets outside the Alliance/Empire. (I do admit I have my prefs for Luke, then Leia--a close second--then the rest, though.)

I liked DRAGON'S TEETH, too, Maggie, but I must be pretty dense. I didn't get that DT was ignoring the metaphysical side of the Jedi. Loved Nancy Stasulis' illos.

The Storytellers: OK, who's going to start writing more stories about Leia finally taking the Jedi training? I know there are some but not enough for my tastes. And have there been any stories on how Pruneface fell himself? If not, I'd like to see someone take a crack at it.

Tim B.: Loved your zine dream. Laughed heartily as I saw it in my mind's eye. Sorry to hear you getting burned on the quick zine/money stuff.

B. J. Evans: Agh! You beat me to the punch on Mary Jean Holmes' "Marginal Error". It is everything she sayeth and more! The build-up to the crossover, switching back and forth between universes is wonderful, getting more hilarious and hysterical as it gets closer. What happens as they (Luke and Han) meet the Ghostbusters, and how they save the Universes after moocho tribulations, inventions and zaniness is beyond anything you can imagine. And, Carolyn G., I'm sorry to tell you that the "Trashing Award of '87" will not go to you but to Mary Jean. What she DOES to New York City, well! ... And I am proud owner of the cover art, acquired at MWC. I'm only waiting for the full-length feature animation to come out! (hee hee hee)

Michelle M.: Thanks for your eloquent words on "/" stories. But I can't quite tell if you've found

one in the SW universe that meets your writing standards. If you have, let me know. (My emotional criteria would be that it have elements of visual settings/surroundings, erotica, lustfulness, tenderness in it.)

Sandi J.: I liked your decision on your evolution on how you view Luke, how you portray him in writing, and the aspects of the Darkside in him. I have some pretty strong views about all that, along with some questions and opinions (to the general zine audience) on all this Darkside stuff altogether. But paradoxically I know I'm not quite clear on the different PoVs so I know I need to explore my opinions again after I've gone over again, sometime, the SE's where this subject crops up. (That's what happens when you try to cram 6+ issues down fast to catch up.) So, I will keep my big mouth shut until I sort it out.

Cheree, again: Unless GL is really playing undercover with WILLOW or BLUE WILLOW HARVEST (a new genetic strain of tree developed by the Skywalker Ranch), I don't think it's our baby. In the 10th anniversary salute to SW in VARIETY magazine, they already were talking about (don't all groan together) merchandizing market items for stuff from WILLOW. They didn't describe anything specific but from the general tone, about how much good selling stuff they were going to get, just what could they market from the prequel? (Yes, I know...new action figures, maybe new ships, a laboratory for making your own clones, Pruneface masks, Jedi massacre purge video games (oops...I think I'm getting burn-brained here).) It didn't sound like that kind of merchandise. Could they keep all those merchandisers under their hats if it was the REAL THING? Maybe? Well, I'll be very happy to be proven wrong!

Sandi J., Pam LaV., and Pat E.: I usually "see" a lot of visuals in my head when I'm reading, especially and lots of times when I'm being told a good story, too. I only got "it" recently that a lot of people DON'T. Hard to explain in words. It's not quite like an invisible mental "movie screen" hanging inside my brain that I see as someone talks or as I read. But I know I "see" a lot of images or conjure them up after. That's why I love writers who are rich in detail...it's a real joy to illo those, like Carolyn Golledge and Patricia D'Orazio, for their stories and their rich detail of emotion and place. And speaking of seeing, Pat, that first illo of Luke to Jean's first poem in FR#9 is the nicest you've done that I know of your work. All lithesome delight; wish it was my door and front yard, there (agh! I don't even have a front yard.).

Everyone: I don't know about anyone else but I usually can't pick up one zine at a time and read it all the way through unless it is a novel. Since I get a few to a bunch at once, I look for my fave authors first. Then I also am immediately attracted to certain illos or artists. Those are the stories I'll usually go for next. Unless, of course, I've heard a description on a story that sounds real fine--that will go ahead of the first two "look fors."

So I find it hard to write about a whole zine. I picked up a total of 11 SW zines at this year's MWC and there's a lot in each zine I've not cased yet. Half are the current offering and half, say from 84-86. So much for my zine reviews. I've been enjoying them immensely. Particularly love Carolyn G.'s work, different satires, and Patricia D'Orazio's "Starsword" universe (KESSEL RUN #3, 4, and FAR REALMS #9 for D'Orazio, ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE DAGOBAH #3, and CIRCLE OF LIGHT #4 for

Golledge).

I'm sorry this is on the wire... Work atmosphere, family atmosphere "suddenly" over a few months past, intensified above and beyond the usual sunny days/stormy days norm. On the way down side, half of my company is being laid off for 2-3 months. Blah--another psychic drain, holding on to my "pro" artwork, zine work (I refuse to be fufilled just when I've found you all) and correspondence and my mind has been a challenge. (Thank goodness for my friends' support with all that is happening around and to me.)

At least this is a page shorter (approximately) (I'm trying, Cheree! That Jedi dissertation was only a few words in my "notes to comment on" yesterday.). I'm off to the Village Halloween Parade ...last year I saw Darth there. I wonder if His Sithness will grace our streets again.

Be well, y'all. Go with the Force...

CREATION CONS

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Halloween '87

Katy is cute enough, sure, but are you sure you should have had a kid? They are so messy and loud and they take up so much time. Time better spent on a zine. I've thought about it and I really think you should give her up. I'd be willing to take the cute little thing off your hands. There is no sacrifice too great that I'm willing to make for SE. When do I get her? ((Ed: You'd ship her back the first night she got you up every hour on the hour!))

It's nice to see so many clippings about Carrie and her book. I'm afraid I can't afford the hardback, so I'm waiting until it becomes an overpriced paperback that I probably can't afford either. And where did you get the clipping on page 15? It's a put-on, right? ((Ed: Can't think which one you're talking about, but--no, all the clippings I run are genuine!))

Sally Syrjala: TIGHTBEAM sounds very interesting. Sometimes I'd like to talk about non-fannish things with other fans. But more of my free time is devoted to more clearly fannish writings. The connection between the destruction of Alderaan and some of our actions against terrorists nations is not a proportional one. Countries like Lybia and Iran have dished out more abuse on the world than they have taken and I'd like to pay them back for all their trouble. But I'd never suggest we nuke them. But the Empire "nuked" a whole planet! That is not a proportional response.

Ming Wathne: I don't understand why you need permission from the editor to circulate zines in the SWzine Library. Well, if the zine is still in print, maybe, but it isn't like copies were made without permission. And do regular libraries need permission to lend their books and magazines?

Matthew Whitney: I was of the understanding that identical twins are very much like each other.

Remember all those instances where such twins were separated at birth and went on to have remarkably similar lives. Still, clones may be influenced by other things. Why am I writing to a SW letterzine if nothing new is being said in SW fandom? Well, to tell you that nothing new is being said in SW fandom, for one thing. Actually, that's not quite true anymore. At second glance, there are a few LoCers in SE who haven't chewed their cabbage twice. I won't mention names, so they won't get a swelled head, but even they are slicing the onion mighty thin.

Yes, Kerry O'Quinn is an important man in the field of media SF, but like most important people, he can be a bit of a pain sometimes. I get the feeling sometimes that he doesn't think much of people who live outside of The Big City. I've only been to one Creation Con, so I probably shouldn't knock them all, but while it was a very professional con, it didn't have much "soul." I can't say I remember much that happened at that con. Greater things have been accomplished by fans who didn't know what they were doing was impossible.

Anonymous from NJ: There was a paragraph or two I could say to you, but Cheree beat me to it.

Maggie Nowakowska: Rather than Vader killing Luke's mom, her death might have been the final thing that pushed him completely into the Dark. He might have been the one who hid her on Alderaan, even as he started on the Jedi Purge. General indications point to Obi-Wan doing the wrong thing at the wrong time.

In both SW and ST fandom, the "Big Three" form the core of their appeal. Now I'm very much interested in Kirk & Spock & McCoy and Luke & Han & of course Leia, but there is so much that fascinates me about the people in the background, the Jan Dondonnas and the Kevin Rileys, the Wedge Antilles and the Montgomery Scotts. But supporters of the supporting cast have a harder time connecting with each other and producing in fandom. Advertise in a few other fanzines that you are producing a Han zine, or a Spock zine, and the bulk of fandom will at least check you out. But the market is a bit tighter for an all-Wedge zine (something I'd like to see, by the way). I'm running the Hellguard Social Register (for Saavik and Romulan fans) and I've mailed out an incredible number of flyers, with less than 4% return. In the "Fan Network" section of STARLOG, I actually got what amounted to half a page, color, listing the HSR. So far, only about 12 have responded to that listing. Yet I hear TREK fans complain that the Romulans have been neglected in the movies even as the Klingons are over-used, and Saavik came in with almost 10% of the "Favorite Character" question in the last BEST OF TREK poll. I have no doubt that I'll eventually get off the ground, but does anybody have any idea why it is so hard for...let's call them sub-fandoms ...to form? And is anybody out there going to edit that Wedge fanzine?

B. J. Evans: I loved "Marginal Error", too. Holmes pulled that off nicely. But a good cross universe story must have a plausible base to work on. That Saavik/MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E. story was very interesting, but the author fumbled the premise. She said upfront that there was no time travel in her story (huh?) but she never gave any explanation how a 1960 spy could meet a 23rd Century alien. Considering how well the story was otherwise written, things like that drive me nuts!

Michelle Malkin: As a concept, love may be universal, but how love filters through our genders

and affects our sexual relationships, that is another matter. Relationships between gay men are not the same as with gay women. The relationships between gay men tend to be rather intense and more often than not short-lived. Lesbian relationships, comparatively, last much longer.

Pat Easley: A dark-haired villain can be smart, even dashing, as well as evil. Blond villains tend to be psychos.

MOC3 will be held again in Columbus, GA, but MOC4 will probably be held in Greenville, SC in '89. I really hope some of you can make it over here. About those free tables, they're not exactly free now, but \$5 should be in most fans' price range. Roland may put on a better show than a Creation Con, but it is harder on him; he lost money on both of the last cons.

Hi*Yo Silver, Away...

AUTHOR RECOMMENDATIONS

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October 25, 1987

Welcome back to SE! Enjoyed the last issue mucho. Thanks, Cheree. This letter will have to be short (no applause). I'm not feeling the best. To all those I owe letters, hang in there. I'll get to you eventually. A couple of things stick in my beleaguered brain from SE#16. Laughed and got homesick over Sandi's recollections on MediaWest. Thanks, Sandi--be careful with that lightsaber and stop assaulting candy machines! I sure hope I can get back for MW'88, but right now it looks impossible.

I think Maggie Nowakowska has hit on a great idea for labelling fan stories according to type. Very clever insignias. Anyone going to use them? I want that bandaid! Han needs 'em! By the way, I've written a satire on hurt/comfort stories...look for it! I've lost any sanity I ever possessed! Still on story ideas, I was watching ROTJ again, and noticed the scene in which Han is bandaging Leia. They both look up as the Death Star explodes. Smoke and burning debris is clearly seen falling through the atmosphere. This is a forest world; I'd say they're in for one gigantic inferno. It could strike anywhere on the moon, possibly where the Ewoks have never made contact with humans. There'd have to be evacuations...well, you can imagine. And, if word got out that Luke Skywalker was seen lighting a huge pyre--the Ewoks' initial reactions to our heroes was far from friendly. I can see Luke being the next course on the menu. I'd appreciate input on this idea. If I get enough energy, maybe I'll write it. I'm still trying to complete an Ord Mantell story. Guess what? Solo gets shot! Yes, I know, you're truly surprised!

I was very interested in what Michelle Malkin had to say about hurt/comfort and also about slash

stories. I second her opinions one hundred percent. I'm glad she mentioned the particular story which had offended me. It involved graphic torture with very little plot justification. I believe this type of story should not be classified as hurt/comfort; there is no comfort! This is what sometimes irritates me when I'm referred to as a hurt/comfort writer--the thought that I am categorized in with graphic torture writers, who I agree, Michelle, certainly seem as though they must be getting some kind of kick out of writing blow-by-blow descriptions. As for slash, it's not my pick, but I have nothing against its inclusion in adult zines. Certainly I applaud your comments that love between two people is not necessarily dependent upon their sex.

Wanted to say hello and thank you to Catherine Churko. Glad to see you've joined in! Was intrigued by your comments on the effects of inner belief and its relationship to Lucas' ideas re the Force.

Also wanted to second Sandi Jones' opinion about writer feedback. And I don't think it's selfish. I wanted to write a long review here of some of my favorite stories. Or at least write a review of zines which came out for the last time in '87. But, as I say, I'm low on energy. Maybe next time. For now, I'll just recommend names.

Oh, and before I forget, thanks to all those who have praised my work, but in all honesty (NOT modesty), I must agree with Cheree. I consider my stories to be basically action/adventure. Any political or cultural references are generally in there simply because I couldn't avoid them. There are several writers who amaze me with the amount of thought that goes into the background detail and also the ramifications for future directions in SW. Ellen Randolph, Mary Jean Holmes, and Patricia D'Orazio come immediately to mind. The sheer volume of their work is incredible as is the three-dimensional quality and reality of the vast number of new characters they create. In all honesty, I'm not in the same ball-park. I do not mean that I consider my work lacking in entertainment, just that it is different and I don't think it has near as many man, er, woman-hours behind it. I'd enjoy more discussion from writers on the methods they use. Do you have a central question you want answered? Do you stick to a plot outline or let your characters take over somewhat? How many hours on average goes into a story? What are your personal interests and motivations? Etc. ((Ed: Speaking for myself, I use the Indiana Jones School of Writing: "I'm making this up as I go." I usually have a good scene pop into my mind and then just build a story around it.))

Okay, so I don't know how to write a short letter! I plead guilty. Here's my list of personal favorites: Always eagerly await the next installment of Patricia D'Orazio's "Starsword" series. It paints a slightly different Han and Luke to the movies but a completely credible one. Her Han as Luke's Starsword is possibly one of the most genuinely original themes in SW fic. She has a gift for creating suspense. Don't miss these stories!

Marti Schuller's stories are the type that grab you emotionally, be it tragic or hilarious. I laughed aloud over "The Gerster Affair" (ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE DAGOBAH #3) and the sinister atmosphere of "The Secret of the Sith" had me guessing till the last (WOOKIEE COMMODORE #4).

Sandi Jones' stories are a must for any Luke fan. She paints a very human portrait and some

interesting challenges for post-ROTJ.

I can't remember who in SE#16 referred me to Jenni Hennig's last "Catalyst!" story in FAR REALMS #9. Anyway, I agree. It's the most action-packed yet. But it was the touch of humor I particularly enjoyed, as also the interaction between Han/Leia and Luke/Jessami. Love and loyalty, but pranks and teasing, too. And she has each of the characters spot on. Luke in this story has lightened up and is as sexy as hell! Jenni's future professional status is stamped all over this one!

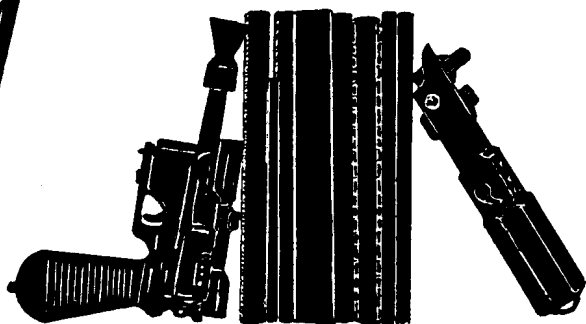
As far as poetry goes, watch for Rebecca Wilson's Darth Vader stuff. It's brilliant. Takes you right inside possibly the most complex character

of the saga.

Also must recommend Karen Ripley's post-ROTJ stories. Anakin the stormtrooper is a fascinating character and, of all the writers mentioned, I think Karen has Han, Luke, Leia, etc., closest to Lucas' mark. (Only better!) But talk about a cliffhanger! Same goes for you, Patricia! No fair! And Liz Sharpe, one final warning--I want the sequel to "Command Performance"! Pronto! Remember, it's not wise to upset a Corellian...he/she will have their Wookiees attack!

Outa steam; hope I didn't confuse anybody anymore than usual!





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NOW IN PORT

A NEW CHALLENGE--21 years after ROTJ, Luke gets a pair of half-Corellian princes to train as Jedi Knights, and a former Imp governor has designs on Alliance territory--and Princess Leia. 228 pp.; art by Dunster, Hawks, Wells, St. John. Fan Q nominee, 1986. \$12.50 fc. **REVENGE OF THE SITH**--20 years post-ANC, Luke undertakes the most important work in all the thousand generations of Jedi--work that may claim his life. 200 pp.; art by River, Wells. Fan-Q nominee. \$14.00 first class. Both novels by Ellen Randolph. Please make checks payable to Full Court Press, 15820 Ocean Avenue, Whittier, CA 90604.

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #3 features material by Carolyn Golledge, Martie Benedict, Marcia Brin, T. S. Weddell, Michelle Malkin, Jacqueline Taero, Carol Mularski, Robin White, Kate Birkel, Matthew Whitney, Judith Tyler, Ronda Henderson, Gail Small, Sandi Jones, and more of your favorite writers both old and new. Art by Wanda Lybarger, Martynn, Dianne Smith, Dani, Steven Fox, Jenni, Nancy Stasulis, Barbara Frances-Simon, Pat Easley, Mark and Melea Fisher, Jim Markle and others. \$17.50 fc. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

BETTER IDEA ZINE -- ATTENTION HARRISON FORD FANS!!! Are you looking for a different zine devoted exclusively to Mr. Ford? Well, look no further -- **Better Idea Zine** is the answer. Not just a newszine, not just a fiction zine, but a combination of the best of both, BIZ comes to you quarterly (3 times in 1987 - May, Sept. and Dec.). Averaging 80 pages, it's chock full of news of the doings of your favorite actor, as well as reader comments, poetry, fiction, artwork and lots of other goodies. Don't be left out. Join the other Ford fans throughout the US and around the world in keeping up with Jones (and Allie and -?-). Rates: \$5/issue Special Fourth Class, \$6/issue First Class; \$7/issue overseas airmail. Check or money order payable to: Cynthia L. Smith, 31 Lincoln Avenue, Lansdale, PA 19446. Or send SASE for more information. Being a Ford fan is a better idea!

CHOICE PARTS--a new Harrison Ford zine, just a bit more on the adult side. Featuring "Chance Encounter" by Kate Birkel. Tommy Lillard was minding his

own business when the strangest looking thing he'd ever seen fell out of the sky--with a beautiful, sharp-tongued princess as its passenger. "The One That Got Away" by Cypher. Han had a lead on the most fabulous jewels in the galaxy. Now, all he had to do was dive to the bottom of an ocean-covered planet, contact the local piscine inhabitants and convince them to turn over their treasure to him. "Remembrance" by Carolyn Golledge. Han and Leia had returned to Corell to find a sacred icon that had belonged to Han's family, shortly before the family holding was destroyed by Imperial troops. Without it, Han could never proclaim his true identity. "Pastorale" by Elizabeth Wilson. Kenny Boyd was haunted by his experiences in Vietnam, and a particular nightmare spilled over to engulf his fiancée. Other material includes fiction by Ann Wortham, Marci Erwin, and Jeannie Webster, plus poetry by Martie Benedict-O'Brien, Pat Nussman, Jacqueline Taero, Patricia D'Orazio, Sarah Macht-DeWitt and others. Art by Wanda Lybarger, Martynn, Dianne Smith, Dani, Jim Markle and Barbara Frances-Simon, plus more. \$15.00 first class. Make checks payable to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill, Garland, TX 75043.

CIRCLE OF LIGHT #3. Now available. SASE for information. Jumeau Press at 2720 Exuma Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406.

DECEPTIVE JOURNEY. Live with Han Solo through one of his earlier adventures before SW. Join him on the planet of Pyrine: "The man laughed, slapping his partner on the back. 'Don't worry. How much trouble could we get into on a place like this?'" Explore Chrystaline: "Its beauty belies its dangers: looking around the ship he could see Chewie had both arms raised, muscles straining to ward off his attacker. 'My God,' thought Han, 'how big was this thing?'" The deception unfolds aboard the ADI. Escape to Tizon and the one place where Han Solo knows what he's doing. "It was the oldest game in the book and he had fallen for it." Written by Joyce Devine and Lynda Vandiver. Art by Bonnie Burns. \$10.35 includes postage in the continental U.S. Money orders please to avoid delay. Lynda Vandiver, 603 Jones Avenue, Madisonville, KY 42431.

DRAGON'S TEETH by Carol Hines-Stroede. A novel of the first STAR WARS trilogy. Illustrated by Nancy Stasulis. Edited by Joyce Yasner and Devra Michele

Langsam. Now available from Poison Pen Press, 627 East 8th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11218. SASE for price information.

ECLIPSE: A "Catalyst!" novella. What happens when a Jedi Healer loses the final battle with death? What could force the ultimate betrayal? What could stage the defeat of the Grand Master of the New Order of Jedi Knights? What could drive Alliance and Jedi apart--then force them back together in a tumult of despair? And what could drive a young Jedi girl to rip open the barriers of Time itself to retrieve what she has irrevocably lost? SASE for info. Galactic Winds Press and Graphics, PO Box 166362, Irving, TX 75016.

FAR REALMS #9. In rampant honor of the 10th anniversary of STAR WARS and the legends inspired... This is it! The big blow-out! The glorious swan song! This is the last issue, but we won't be forgotten or go out with a whimper. Like in the past, we will excite, offend or make your emotions run rampant, but we never bore you. FR#9 offers the talents of Patricia D'Orazio with the sequel to "Sword of Darkness..." enjoyed in KESSEL RUN #4--"Sword of Sorrow, Sword of Hope"; Carolyn Gollidge with "What Price Peace?"; Jeanine Hennig with the bridging story in the "Catalyst!" saga; Sandi Jones, a talented newcomer; Linda Knights, the "vignette queen" with a longer story; Samia Martz with another "First Steps" story, and many talented others, with artwork by Dani, Melea Fisher, Jenni, Jim Markle, and lots more! SASE for price info. Galactic Winds Press and Graphics, PO Box 166362, Irving, TX 75016.

FIELD STUDIES II. Features "A Day in the Life" by L. R. Virgil. Let's put it this way...the attempted rape by five co-eds, the subsequent faculty hearing and his summary dismissal from Marshall College was the high point of Indy's day! "Pact With the Devil" by T. S. Weddell. Indy's Jewish colleague has managed to escape from Nazi Germany, but his wife and children are being held there. The price of their freedom? Indy must retrieve a priceless sacred object for Hitler. "The Crystal Skull" by Cheree Cargill. Indy had only dreamed of ever seeing this incredible artifact, but other parties were determined to have it as well. And everyone overlooked the fact that the skull had a mind of its own. More adventures by Patricia D'Orazio, Ann Wortham, and Jeannie Webster. Poetry by Martie Benedict and Beth Lentz. Art by Wanda Lybarger, Martynn, Suzy Sansom, Cheree Cargill and Laura Virgil. ONLY A FEW COPIES LEFT!! \$14 first class mail. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

FLIP OF A COIN, the fanzine featuring selections based on all characters portrayed by Harrison Ford throughout his career, is accepting submissions of fiction, poetry, cartoons, art, etc., for future issues. Issue #10 is due March, 1987. Back issues #4/5 (limited supply), #6, #7, #8 and #9 are still available; however, #1, #2 and #3 are now out of print. Featured selections by Jacqueline Taero, Wanda Lybarger, Martie Benedict-O'Brien, Barbara Anderson, Sherry Magee, Cypher, T. S. Weddell, Lynda Ruth Pfonner, Pat Nussman, Martynn, Dani, and many, many more! SASE for information on writing guidelines as well as orders to FLIP OF A COIN, c/o Paula Truelove and Jenny McAdams, Editors, 502 McKeithan St., Apt. 4A, Tallahassee, FL 32304.

GUARDIAN 7 contains two l-o-n-g novellas, "Sabacc!" by Birkel and "In the Passage," by Knights; plus "What Price Friendship?" by Bielowicz; "And He is Us," by Hines-Stroede; "Pavane for a Dead Princess," by Randolph; "Loose Ends," by Otten & Rosenberg; more. Lots of poetry and art as well. Covers by Hoolahan and Siegrist. 280 pp.; offset, perfect bound. \$12.60 bk sp hd ins; \$18.10, Europe (air); \$20.10, Pacific (air). Linda Deneroff and Cynthia Levine, co-eds. Make checks payable to Mazeltough Press; PO Box 248; Wayzata, MN 55391. Canadians, please add 50¢ postage to U.S. rates.

GUARDIAN 6 contains material from over 60 contributors! Here's just a sample: "Returning to the Clan," by Bielowicz (ST); "Member of the Guild," by Birkel (SW); "The Firefly Factor," by Carraher (ST); "High Flight," by Duane (SW); "Cinechrome Reality," by Gonzales (SW/IJ - the sequel to "Hear the Echo Lonely," with the permission of Marcia Brin); "The Acolyte," by Hines-Stroede (SW); "Mirror, Mirror," by Hoolahan (SW); "The Mickey Mouse Affair," by Kirby (UNCLE); more. Art by Hawks, Johansen, Martynn, O'Neill, Reitz, River, and Siegrist; poetry and films by Berman, Bowles, Delapenia, Ecklar, Gatonspaulis, Grant, Heyes, Nuernberg, Nussman, and Sacksteder. Covers by Johansen and Walske. 216 pp.; offset; reduced; perfect bound. \$10.60 bk sp hd ins; \$14.50, Europe (air); \$16.75, Pacific (air). Linda Deneroff and Cynthia Levine, co-eds. Make checks payable to Mazeltough Press; PO Box 248; Wayzata, MN 55391. Canadians, please add 50¢ postage to U.S. rates.

GUARDIAN 5 is a full-length SW saga novel, "Storm-brother," by Fern Marder & Carol Walske, set more than a year after the end of the victorious revolution. Who is Areth Solo, and why are they saying terrible things about him? Can Yoda and Obi-Wan Kenobi re-establish the balance between the light and dark sides? Covers and artwork by Walske; poetry by Marder. 200 pp.; not reduced; perfect bound. \$9.60 bk sp hd ins; \$13.50, Europe (air); \$15.75, Pacific (air). Linda Deneroff and Cynthia Levine, co-eds. Make checks payable to Mazeltough Press; PO Box 248; Wayzata, MN 55391. Canadians, please add 50¢ postage to U.S. rates. **GUARDIAN 4** is still available in limited supply. 204 pp.; offset; perfect bound. \$9.60 bk sp hd ins; \$13.50, Europe (air); \$15.75, Pacific (air). Save postage: Order 4 & 5 together for only \$16.80 bk sp hd; 4 & 6 or 5 & 6 for only \$17.80 bk sp hd. Order 4 & 7 or 5 & 7 for \$20.25; 6 & 7 for \$21.25.

HARRISON FORD FUN BOOK. A puzzle fanzine. Giant collection of over 100 word search and other puzzles based on Harrison Ford's character portrays in STAR WARS, RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK, HEROES, HANOVER STREET, BLADE RUNNER, etc. Also test your knowledge on trivia and script quotations. All puzzle solutions included. \$10.00 includes postage within the continental U.S. Money orders please to avoid delay. Lynda Vandiver, 603 Jones Ave., Madisonville, KY 42431.

HIBERNATION SICKNESS. A new bi-monthly SW newsletter. Each issue is 16-20 pages filled with fanfic, art, poetry, cartoons, etc. Contributions deadline for October issue is September 1st. \$10.00 for 6 issues in USA, \$14.00 overseas. Sample issue \$2.00. Lisa Thomas, 7606 Lady St., North Charleston, SC 29418.

INDIANA JONES IN THE DARK CONTINENT by Lynda Vandiver. Everything you always wanted to know about a field trip with archaeologist Dr. Indiana Jones, but were afraid to ask. This 17,000+ word novel takes the archaeologist and some of his students to the adventure of their lives when they travel to an ancient burial site in Africa. Romance, comedy, danger, fun, excitement, exotic settings, cannibals, waterfalls, and heart-stopping action. \$10.00 includes postage within the continental U.S. Money orders please to avoid delay. Lynda Vandiver, 603 Jones Avenue (honest!), Madisonville, KY 42431.

JUST DESERTS #1. All RAT PATROL zine. Contents include stories by Bartlett, Bryson, Carr, Farnsworth, Knights and others. Art by Dani, Virgil, and Otten. Contains a SW crossover and an Indiana Jones crossover as well. \$10.00 fc. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

LAST STAND AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD is a BLAKE'S 7 5th season in five parts. Written by Ann Wortham & Leah Rosenthal with art by Dani, Rosenthal, Karen River and Deb Walsh. Full color cover. They're going extremely fast! \$18.00. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE DAGOBAB. Still some copies of the first issue available. Stories, art, poetry, and puzzles by Hennig, Mark and Melea Fisher, Markle, Bales, Wortham, Vandiver, Nordstrom, Cargill, Cooper, and Dani. \$10.00 (includes postage). DAGOBAB is 100 pp. reduced. ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE DAGOBAB AGAIN (second issue). Now available, featuring more stories, art, poetry, films and cartoons by your favorites such as Hennig, Wortham, Erwin, Randolph, Carr, St. Cyr, Jones, Henderson, Wells, Vandiver, Nordstrom, Malkin, Grant, Markle, Bales, Dani, the Fishers, and cover by Karen River. Send \$12.50 (includes postage) to Melea Fisher, 4504 W. Pioneer #82, Irving, TX 76061, or send SASE for flier with story listings. DAGOBAB AGAIN is 200 pp. reduced.

ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE DAGOBAB #3. Now available. SASE to Melea Fisher, 4504 W. Pioneer #82, Irving, TX 75061 for info.

ON THE MARK--the newsletter and Fan Club for all Mark Hamill fans! It is published quarterly with the full approval of actor Mark Hamill. Each issue includes exclusive photos, the very latest news on Mark's career, articles from fans, artwork, a letter column and much more. Membership to ON THE MARK is only \$5.00/yr U.S., \$10.00 overseas. Includes 4 issues, a biosheet, an autographed photo of Mark, and special offers available to club members only. We also have Mark Hamill fan buttons, color photos, and a beautiful art portfolio for sale to members. OTM has been an active, official Fan Club for over six years. All back issues of the newsletter are available. OTM also handled all of Mark Hamill's fan mail. When joining, please print your name and address clearly. A SASE is appreciated for inquiries and correspondence. ON THE MARK, PO Box 5276, Orange, CA 92667.

PERCEPTIONS. The "other" Harrison Ford fanzine. Contents include "Tripping the Light Fantastic" by

Barbara Anderson. Why does Han Solo have that sinking feeling of doom as he watches the beautiful and graceful dancer before him? "Hidden Perils" by Carolyn Golledge. An injured Han can't remember what happened to him, only that his "friend" Darth Vader was there to help him. "Angel Unawares" by Cheree Cargill. A cold and weary Tommy Lillard rides into the life of a widow. "Metamorphosis" by Sally Syrjala. Deckard takes a moment to contemplate life. More from Jeannie Webster, Clark Mason, Maggie Nowakowska, Ann Wortham and others. Art by Cheryl Fint, Barbara Frances-Simon, Suzy Sansom, Cheree Cargill and Bonnie Burns. \$12.80 includes postage within the continental U.S. Money orders please to avoid delay. Lynda Vandiver, 603 Jones Avenue, Madisonville, KY 42431.

POWER OF SPEECH #3 is now available. Biggest issue yet with 44 pages! Includes discussion on BLAKE'S 7, THE PROFESSIONALS, ALIENS, slash fiction, the STAR TREK films and series. Articles: controversial interview with David Gerrold talking about K/S, ST films and series, views on life, etc., conducted by Randall Landers and Tim Farley. Controversial review by Kristie Brady of long-running ST letterzine INTERSTAT. Gorgeous pen and ink front cover by Bobbie Hawkins of Spock from "Plato's Stepchildren". Various and sundry items commenting on NASA and the CHALLENGER space shuttle. POWER OF SPEECH is a ST/media letterzine dedicated to the uninhibited right of free fannish expression. Civilized controversy is not only welcomed but actively sought. All issues are \$2 each, postage paid (\$3.25 overseas). Xerox copies of #1 and #2 still available for the same price. Free copies available for review. Sales at conventions also sought. Write: Sandra H. Necchi, 4918 Cedar Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19143.

PRESSURE POINT -- a new bimonthly newsletter designed to keep out in touch with what's happening in B7 fandom, what US conventions are featuring B7 guests and where, what zines you can buy or submit to, what B7 clubs you can join, in fact, almost everything that's happening in this growing US fandom, all in a concise and timely form. Each issue features a calendar of events, zine listings, zine reviews, and a marketplace. \$3.00/3 issues, \$6.00/6 issues. For subscription info, please SASE Pat Nussman, 2 J Breezy Tree Court, Timonium, MD 21093.

SHADOW DANCE--Media zine devoted to those lovable scoundrels--on both sides of the law! #1 includes "Identity Crisis" (SW), "Three's Company" (Harrison Ford story), "The Fan Who Never Returned" (SW/Fantasy Island), and more! Limited supply left. \$7.50 US, \$10.00 overseas. #2 includes "Delusions of Grandeur" (BG), "A Time of Life and Death" (THJ), "Aspasia" (SW), "Perchance to Dream" (SW), "Delirium's Dream" (TJH), "Just One of Those Days" (SW). Special Jon-Eric Hexum cover and memorial prose. More!! Approx 100 pages. Now available. \$12.00 US, \$15.00 overseas. Please make checks payable to K. L. Smithline. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001 - 14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

SIGNS OF WISDOM: A "Desert Seed" novel by Carol Mularski. Kaili Lars learns that would-be Jedi must pass a Test, which is different for each person. A few copies left. \$9.00 1st class, checks payable to Chris Callahan. Order from The Unknown Press c/o Callahan, 6101 Seminole St., Berwyn Heights, MD 20740. Checks payable to Chris Callahan.

SITH YEARBOOK is still available! A SW zine from the Imperial perspective. Stories & poetry by Bonder, Habel, Hines-Stroede, Necchi, Tennison/Stevens, Wilson. Art by Bonder, Contessa, Habel, Hummel, Rosenthal, Stasulis, Van Riper, Griffith, Bernie! and bes shahar. Price \$7.00 plus \$2.40 for 1st class postage. Susan W. Henderson, 40 Westminster Ave., Portland ME 04103. Some same-sex relationships (Pielt and Serzho, of course).

SOLO. A fanzine with all sorts of stories about Han Solo, from his youth to his exciting and adventurous life before that meeting in the Mos Eisley spaceport, through the struggles of the Rebellion and his life with Luke and Leia afterwards. All stories and shorts written by Lynda Vandiver and Joyce Devine. Cover by Barbara Frances-Simon. \$11.00 includes postage within the continental United States. Money orders please to avoid delay. Lynda Vandiver, 603 Jones Avenue, Madisonville, KY 42431.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS 2.5 (all-BLAKE'S 7) has been reprinted for the final time. For adults only. Please be advised that this zine contains some slash material. There are only a few left, so please enclose a SASE with your order. \$5.00 FC. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS 3 (multi-media) is available but going fast. Universes include B7, IJ, AT, AW, S&S, MV and others. Contributors include Carr, Jeffords, Sharpe, Terrell, Wortham & Rosenthal, and many, many more. 300 pages. \$17.00 book rate, insured. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS 3.5 (all-BLAKE'S 7) is available in its final reprint. For adults only with some slash material. \$9.00 FC. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS 3.75 (all-BLAKE'S 7) is in print. All slash this time and all A/V. Definitely for adults only. \$9.00 FC. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #1: The zine that started it all! Still some copies available. Fiction, articles and poetry by Ripley, Peed, Thomas, Martz, Rogan, Saye and others. Art by River, Peed, Fregni, Carleton and others. Cover by River. \$12.50, first class mail, \$10.00 in person. THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #2: Winner of the 1986 Fan Q Award for Best SW Zine!! Still some copies available. Fiction, articles and poetry by Golledge, Ripley, Cope, Martz and others; art by Lybarger, River, Charvat, Peed, Dani, Bryant, and others. Something to Offend Absolutely Everyone! Perfect bound. \$13.50 in person; \$14.50 book rate; \$17.00 first class mail. THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #3: Winner of the 1987 Fan Q Award for Best Star Wars Zine is sold out! Thank you--and sorry!! We are accepting SASEs for a possible reprint of this issue; it would take a minimum of 100 to reprint it, however; and it may not be available for the same price as the original copies. THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #4: Winner of the 1988 Fan Q Award

for Best Star Wars Zine??? Ha ha--little joke! This zine, whose reputation has preceded it [yes, the rumors you've heard about the inside front cover are true!!] is almost sold out! A few copies left --first come, first served; and when it's gone, it's gone. First class \$17.00; Book Rate \$15.50, \$13.50 in person. Double D Press, Dr. Mary Urhausen, 42 Three Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402.

THOUSANDWORLDS COLLECTED. This is a three-volume limited edition featuring new material, reprinted stories, and background information in this most popular fan-alternate SW universe. Reduced; double-columned; perfect-bound. Volume 1 (276 pp.) is \$15.00 in person. Add \$2.60 book rate, special handling insured. Volume 2 (336 pp.) is \$20.00 in person. Add \$3.75 book rate, special handling insured. Volume 3 (a reprint of SKYWALKER 5) is \$8.00 in person. Add \$3.25 book rate, special handling insured. Foreign orders: SAE + 2 IRCs. Sets are available for \$40.00 in person; \$48.00 book rate, special handling insured. Make checks payable to Mazeltough Press; PO Box 248; Wayzata, MN 55391.

COMING SOON TO A GALAXY NEAR YOU

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #4. At long last, TF4 is open for contributions. This all-SW zine is ready to receive your fiction, poems, cartoons and art. Hopefully due out early next summer. SASE if you are interested in contributing to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

ALL THAT JAZZ--the first and possibly only all A-Team zine around! #1--Fiction so far by Garrett, Smithline, Habel. Art so far by Larimer. Submissions now being sought and accepted. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

CATALYST! COLLECTED, VOL II. To begin where CATALYST! COLLECTED, VOL I left off... Contains the trilogy, "Seeds of Destruction" (much added to and changed), and a collection of short stories and vignettes, a majority of which have never seen print. PLUS the song cycle, family trees, and a character portfolio by Jenni. Additional artwork by Dani Lane, Mary Jean Holmes and hopefully a few other talented individuals. This volume, along with the novella ECLIPSE and the first volume will complete the collection of this very different STAR WARS alternate. \$5 and SASE will reserve your copy, due out in September 1987. Galactic Winds Press and Graphics, PO Box 166362, Irving, TX 75016.

CHOICE PARTS #2. Yes, folks, I know I'm crazy, but I'm soliciting material for CP#2. No due date has been set, but I hope to have it out sometime in 1988. This is a Harrison Ford zine just a bit more on the adult side. I want only very high quality stories and poetry. R-rated material is fine, but each story will be judged on its own merit. I'm not interested in "/" fiction, "get" stories or gratuitous sex and violence. I would like writers to stretch their creative wings a bit and explore some new territory with Harrison's various characters at the center. If interested in contributing, SASE Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill, Garland, TX 75043.

FLIP OF A COIN #11. Accepting submissions for #11 and future issues: fiction, poetry, art, cartoons, etc., relating to all characters portrayed by Harrison Ford throughout his career. FLIP OF A COIN, Paula Truelove & Jenny McAdams, Editors, 502 McKeithan #4A, Tallahassee, FL 32304.

GUARDIAN 8 is in need of manuscripts looking for a good home. ST, SW, UNCLE welcome. Please send them to Linda Deneroff; 1800 Ocean Parkway; Brooklyn, NY 11223.

JUST DESERTS #2 (all RAT PATROL) contains two long stories by Linda Knights, stories by Carr, Horvath, Winters, art by Winters and more. \$5.00 & legal-size SASE to reserve. Please remember that the SASE is part of the price of the zine. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

PROBABILITY SQUARE, a Blake's 7 zine from Gambit Press, is currently in the planning stages. Accepting submissions of art and fiction (no slash or x-rated fiction, but stories with adult situations will be considered on an individual basis). Contributors so far include: Annie Wortham, Julie Kramer, Michele Rosenberg, Dani Lane, Sheila Paulson, Jean Graham, Suzi Lovett, Leah Rosenthal, Theresa Buffalo, Leigh Arnold and Laura Virgil. The zine will be approximately 250 pages long (reduced type), with a limited run of 200 copies. Submission deadline is Feb. 15, 1988 with publication date for summer (Scorpio). Art should be camera ready and manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced. To reserve a copy, send \$5.00 + legal size SASE to Laura Virgil, Gambit Press, 2207 Gaylord Drive, Dallas, TX 75227. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered.

QUARTERSTAFF, a proposed quarterly letterzine for fans of HTV/Goldcrest's ROBIN HOOD, is currently seeking LoCs, filler art and articles. SASE for details and for final price notification. Mary A. Schmidt, N8011 WI Hwy 33, Beaver Dam, WI 53916.

SANCTUARY--Collection of stories, filks, vignettes, poetry, and more around, between, before and after A NEW CHALLENGE and REVENGE OF THE SITH; 120 years and more of this universe. Prefaces by Nowakowska, Deneroff, and the author; timeline, genealogy and incredible art by Siegrist, Jenni, Stasulis, Lybarger, Martynn, Afton, Holmes, Churko, Faddis, Kluge, River, Fisher and Fisher. Publication date: your guess is as good as mine. SASE + \$8 to reserve a copy; extremely limited print run. Full Court Press, 15820 Ocean Avenue, Whittier, CA 90604.

SHADOW DANCE II. Twice the size of #1. Fiction by: Smithline, Hunter, Wortham, Wardwell, Garret. Poetry by Mary Robertson, including special memorial poem to Jon-Eric Hexum. Games by Vandiver and Erwin. Art by: Brinkmeir, Zan, Dunster. Jon-Eric Hexum cover by J. R. Dunster. Approximately 100 pages. Reserve your copy now! Only 20 more reservations needed to go to press. Final price: \$12.00 USA, \$15.00 overseas. Please make your check payable to K. L. Smithline. Black Unicorn Press, c/o K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219. #1 still available for \$7.50.

SITH YEARBOOK #2 -- Just when you thought it was safe to go back into space! Expect to be out for MediaWest 007. Some of the usual suspects are back, plus some new offerings. We can use short stories,

poems, art. Please contact Susan W. Henderson, 40 Westminster Ave., Portland, ME 04103. Deadline is 15 April 1987. SASE for price and info.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS 4 will probably be available around the end of the year. Universes to include B7, WIZARDS & WARRIORS, REMINGTON STEELE, SCARECROW & MRS. KING, SIMON & SIMON, and more. Color cover by Laura Virgil. \$5.00 + businesssize SASE to reserve. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

SOUTHERN SEVEN #2 (all BLAKE'S 7) will be in print in October '87. Stories by Carr & Hall, Hintze, Paulson, Rosenthal & Wortham, Snyder & McGhin (more HELLHOUND!), and many others. \$5.00 and business-size SASE to reserve. Please remember that the SASE is part of the price of the zine. Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

STAR QUEST -- Yes, I'm crazy enough to give this a try (oops, I mean do it). I am putting out a new full-size SW zine that will premiere at MediaWestCon in 1988. I already have stories from Gollidge, Hennig, Schuller, D'Orazio, Whitney, and Jones (of course). I am working on some other BNFs and some not so well known authors for submissions. I will hopefully have illustrations by some of fandom's best. Right now I am accepting contributions of vignettes, poetry, and other short subjects. If you have a really long story, send me a synopsis and possible page count. Send SASE for further information on availability and price to: Sandi Jones, 629B Dana Court, Naperville, IL 60540.

THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #5: For all of you who haven't heard that SW fandom is dead...the Commode marches on! Fiction, poetry and articles by Gollidge, Martz, Saye, Wilson, Carr, Ripley, Moffat, Rudecki, Haire, and others. Art by Smith, Lybarger, Dani, Fisher, Carey, Churko, Kluge, and others. Projected date of publication: early 1988. SASEs accepted, no deposits, please. Color front cover--inside and out. Luke fans: Get set for your day in the sun! DOUBLE D PRESS, Dr. Mary K. Urhausen, 42 Three Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402.

THE WOOKIEE COMMODE #6: Is still open for submissions of the ridiculous, sublime, offensive, and wonderful! For submissions guidelines, SASE: Samia Martz, 701 West Hale Lake Road, Warrensburg, MO 64093. Address all other correspondence to DOUBLE D PRESS, Dr. Mary K. Urhausen, 42 Three Mile Road, Racine, WI 53402.

XANADU -- A new multi-media zine from Falcon Press! We are looking primarily for high quality BLAKE'S 7 material but will consider material in other universes--SW, ST, RAIDERS, UNCLE, S&S, V, or whatever turns you on! R-rated is okay, but please no slash material or gratuitous violence. If interested, SASE Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

OTHER WORLDS

ANNUALS, ZINES AND BOOKS FOR SALE. Mostly British media-oriented. STAR TREK, STAR WARS, DR. WHO,

BLAKE'S 7, PROFESSIONALS, etc. Send business-size SASE for list. (Note: this list changes constantly. If it's been a while since you sent for it, chances are it's different.) Correspondence without a SASE will not be answered. Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701.

BUTTONS MADE TO ORDER. Subjects include Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill, Star Wars, A-Team, "V". Photo, general and novelty buttons as well. Legal size SASE for catalog. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

BUTTONS, BUTTONS, BUTTONS. Made with your picture so each is a one-of-a-kind item. Keychains, pocket mirrors and magnets are also available. Some photo buttons os ST, SW, Harrison Ford in stock. For information on these and other collectibles, please send SASE to Helen Clark, 249 Kingston Rd., Lexington, KY 40505.

FOR SALE: H. Ford Album, 20 pages, Asst. pub. stills color and b/w. Ranges from 3x5 to 8x10, SW to FRISCO KID. \$25.00 + postage. Contact P.J. at (303) 322-4935 or write to 1650 Wabash, Denver, CO 80220.

HF COLLECTORS--I need your help! I am looking for early, obscure TV and movie roles by Harrison, in particular THE TRIAL OF LT. WILLIAM CALLEY, plus any TV shows he guest-starred in. VHS format. Maybe I have something you're looking for. Will gladly trade. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

REMEMBER THAT GREAT DIANNE SMITH COVER ON CHOICE PARTS? Dianne did it in color since we had the intention of printing a full-color cover. Alas, funds ran too short for such a project. But now you can own a color print of her luscious Ford painting! Special orders are being taken for photographic prints. These are excellent quality prints, done on Kodak paper by Fox Photo. 5x7's are \$6.00; 8x10's are \$10.00. This will be a limited offer and only those copies ordered will be printed! Make checks payable to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill, Garland, TX 75043.

SPACE REDUCTION SALE -- Assorted items, books and zines. Send legal SASE for list. Esther Lemay, 222 Malibu Drive, Lewisville, TX 75067.

STAR TREK SLIDES--Set of 20 for \$15. All episodes, all characters. Individually--\$1.00 each, minimum 5 slides. SASE Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001-14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

STILL PLAYING CATCH-UP? With the editors' permission, we offer photocopies of the following zines: ARCHAEOLOGY 101, EMPIRE REVIEW, KESSEL RUN, CROSSED SABERS, FACETS, MOS EISLEY CHRONICLE, DOCKING BAY, FAR REALMS, MILLENNIUM, TREMOR IN THE FORCE #1 and

#2. Editors inquiries welcomed. SASE for flyer. De-Van Press, 1108 Pepper Dr., Madisonville, KY 42431.

THE STAR WARS FAN ALLIANCE is looking for you! We are currently compiling a list of SW fans, fan clubs and publications which will be available at cost to any SW fan who wants it! If you want to be included in our fan community, send us a 3 x 5 card with your name, address and ZIP-Code and a SASE. You can include your SW "fan name", birthdate and full phone number if you wish. When the list is ready for release, we'll use your SASE to let you know. Send all inquiries and information to the address below. May the Force be with us! STAR WARS FAN ALLIANCE, c/o Sandra K. Durham, 1124 Conservation Road, Martinsville, IN 46151-9015.

ZINE SALE: SW, ST, mixed. Spock and Harrison Ford role zines, too. Low prices. SASE for list. Nancy Baker, 1411 N.W. 78th St., Des Moines, IA 50311.

ZINE SALE: SW and Ford. Many zines. 1978-86. Send \$1 or 2 IRC's & SASE for list to: Carolyn Gollledge, 6 Burrawang St., Ettalong 2257, N.S.W., Australia

ZINE SALE: SW and some ST and other, reasonable prices. Selling to clear some closet space. SASE for list, to Barbara Tennison, 1834-1/2 Selby Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90025.

ZINE SALE: SW, ST, mixed. Some out of print. Any Ford or Spock lovers out there? Zines devoted to HF roles and many to Spock (esp. Spock/Christine) on list. SASE for this list to Nancy Baker, 1411 NW 78th St., Des Moines, IA 50311.

3-1/2 x 5 PHOTOS--Harrison Ford color photos from Letterman, Conversation, Graffiti, Dan August, Getting Straight. Also Dirk Benedict from the Alan Thicke Show. All photographs are clear and sharp! Excellent artist's reference. Jon-Eric Hexum from Voyagers, Cover-up (several sets). SASE for price flyer. Black Unicorn Press, K. L. Smithline, 5001 - 14th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219.

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